

# NEWS TODAY

## UNITED NATION OFFICE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (UNDRR) RELEASED GLOBAL ASSESSMENT REPORT ON DRR 2023 (GAR- DRR 2023)

- Theme of report is **“Mapping Resilience for Sustainable Development Goals”**.

- **Key highlights of report**

- Number of recorded disasters has **increased fivefold over past 50 years**.

- **80 percent increase** in risk of crop failure and hunger in sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia due to drought.

- **Global best practices for resilience include** India’s **Heat action plans** in cities to deal with heatwaves; Sahel’s **Great Green Wall** to counteract desertification etc.

- **Resilience** is the **ability of a system, community, or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform, and recover** from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner.

- **Societal well-being (people), ecological or biosphere well-being (planet), and economic well-being (prosperity)** are interlinked in fostering resilience.

- **DRR** aims to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards like earthquakes, floods, droughts and cyclones, through an ethic of prevention.

- **Recommendations**

- **Investing earlier in resilience and adaptation** can avoid costs of hazard impacts.

- Building resilience will require **resilience investment and adaptation from both public and private sectors**.

- **UNDRR (HQ: Geneva)** was established in 1999 is **custodian of Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030**.

## SKILL INDIA MISSION COMPLETES 8 YEARS

- Skill India Mission was **launched in 2015** by **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**.

- **Objective:** Create an **end-to-end implementation** framework for skill development and **convergence across sectors and States** in terms of skill training activities.

- It focuses on **skilling, reskilling and upskilling** through short term and long term training programme

- Government through **more than 20 Central Ministries/Departments** is implementing various skill development schemes across India.

- **Under Skill India Mission, following are Skill development schemes**

- **Pradhan Mantri Kausal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):** Currently **PMKVY 3.0** is being implemented across country since January 2021.

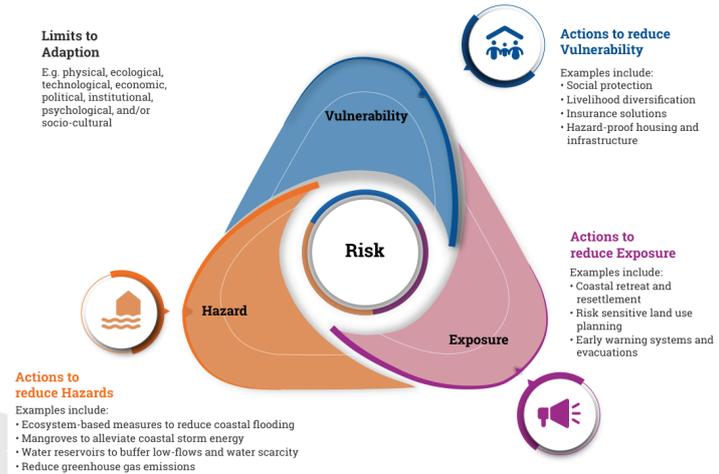
- Under PMKVY 3.0, **7.4 lakh persons have been trained**, 66% certified and 41,437 placed.

- **Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme:** Provide vocational training to non-literates, neo-literates as well as school drop-outs in rural regions by identifying skills that have a relevant market in that region.

- **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme:** Provides **financial support to industrial establishments** undertaking apprenticeship programmes. **21.4 lakh apprentices** have been engaged by industries.

- **Craftsmen Training Scheme:** Provides long-term training through 14,938 **Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)**. Since 2015, 91.7 lakh students have been trained.

### Options for risk reduction through adaptation





## INDIA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) SIGN PACT TO TRADE IN LOCAL CURRENCIES

### • Key highlights of India's Prime Minister state visit to UAE

- India and UAE have signed a pact to **establish Local Currency Settlement System (LCSS) framework to promote use of Indian Rupee (INR) and UAE Dirham (AED) for cross-border transactions.**
  - LCSS would **enable exporters and importers to invoice and pay in their respective domestic currencies**, which in turn would enable the **development of an INR-AED foreign exchange market.**
  - Use of local currencies would **promote investments, optimise transaction costs and settlement time for transactions**, including for remittances from Indians residing in UAE.
- Both sides agreed to **link India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with UAE's Instant Payment Platform (IPP).**
- Both sides agreed to **link their respective Card Switches vis-a-vis RuPay switch and UAESWITCH to enable mutual acceptance of domestic cards** and processing of these card transactions.
  - **India's Structured Financial Messaging System (SFMS) will be linked with messaging system in UAE** to ease their financial messaging.
- Both sides signed a MoU to **establish IIT-Delhi campus in Abu Dhabi**, which would be second IIT abroad after Tanzania.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF UAE

- India-UAE trade rose to **USD 85 billion in 2022**, making UAE India's third-largest trading partner for 2022-23 and **India's second-largest export destination.**
- India is UAE's **second largest trading partner.**
- In 2022, **UAE signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with India** (first country).

## CLOUD ASSETS BIGGEST TARGETS FOR CYBERATTACKS: 2023 CLOUD SECURITY REPORT BY THALES

### • Key findings

- **35% of Indian respondents experienced a data breach** in their cloud environment in 2022.
- 68% of businesses in India and 75% globally stated that **more than 40% of data stored in the cloud is classified as sensitive.**
- **Software as a Service (SaaS) applications has expanded.** 38% of respondents globally ranked SaaS apps as the **top target for cyberattacks.**
  - SaaS (software licensing model) buyers can **customise the user interface and change data fields**, and **access their data through their mobile devices.** Outlook, Hotmail and Yahoo! mail are forms of SaaS
- Cloud storage is a method in which **digital data, including files, business data, videos, or images, are stored on servers in off-site locations.**
  - These servers can be **accessed either by public or through private internet connections**, depending on the nature of data.
- **Benefits of Cloud storage:** Efficient data management, increased agility, cost effectiveness etc.
- **Concern posed by Cloud Services:** Deployment of incompatible legacy IT systems and third-party data storage architecture, use of weak authentication practices, etc.

## 3 YEARS OF NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY (NEP) 2020

- NEP 2020 was **launched by Ministry of Education** to provide an **overarching vision and comprehensive framework** for both **school and higher education** across the country.
  - It is built on foundational pillars of **Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability.**
  - It was drafted by **Kasturirangan Committee** and **replaced 34-year-old National Policy on Education, 1986.**
- **Key features**
  - **Early childhood care and education** through Anganwadis and pre-school.
  - **Restructuring school curriculum and pedagogy** in a new **5+3+3+4 design.**
  - Achieve **100% Gross enrollment ratio in preschool to secondary level by 2030 and 50% in higher education** including vocational education **by 2035.**
  - **National Testing Agency (NTA)** to serve as an autonomous testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for undergraduate and graduate admissions in higher education institutions.
- **Initiatives taken for NEP**
  - **National Literacy and Numeracy Skills Initiative (NIPUN) India Mission** to strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy.
  - **Vidya Pravesh**, initiative under NIPUN, to bolster a child's pre-literacy pre-numeracy, cognitive and social skills
    - **33 States and UTs have implemented Vidya Pravesh** from 2022-23.
  - **NISHTHA**, national initiative for holistic development of school heads and teachers designed by NCERT.

# UNITED KINGDOM (UK) SIGNS TREATY TO JOIN COMPREHENSIVE AND PROGRESSIVE AGREEMENT FOR TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (CPTPP)

- CPTPP is a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** that was agreed in **2018** between **11 countries** – Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.
  - All **11 countries of CPTPP** are members of **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation**.
  - **UK will become 12th member**, and **first in Europe** to join since its inception.
  - **CPTPP succeeded Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)** after US withdrew from TPP in 2017.
- **Significance of CPTPP**
  - It forms a **trading bloc representing 500 million consumers and 13.5% of global GDP**.
  - Ensure **protection of environment and labour rights** which are enforceable by dispute settlement.
  - **Eliminates tariffs and reduces barriers for 98% of exports** within CPTPP member countries.
- **Why India is not part of CPTPP?**
  - On agriculture front, **farmers will be continuously exposed to the risk of being knocked out of the market by cheap and subsidised exports**, particularly from Australia and New Zealand.
  - **Restrict the market of generic medicine**.
  - India's manufacturing sector may **not be able to face import competition** in a duty-free regime.

## WHAT INDIA CAN GAIN BY JOINING CPTPP?

- **Competitiveness:** Reduced tariffs will make exporting less expensive, **allowing Indian businesses to compete on price in Indo-Pacific markets**.
- **Access to new clients:** New preferential access to key markets in Indo-pacific region **including Japan, Malaysia, and Chile**.
- **Market transparency and stability:** CPTPP would offer Indian services suppliers **improved protection, predictability, and transparency**.

## ALSO IN NEWS



### Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS)

- **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has replaced the **Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES)** with **SCoS**.
- **SCoS** will have a **broader mandate to review the framework and results of all surveys** conducted under National Statistical Office.
  - It has **10 official members and four non-official members** who are eminent academics.
  - Its terms of reference include **finalisation of survey results and better use of administrative data**. Apart from survey design improvements, **SCoS will identify data gaps and strategies to plug them**
  - National Statistical Commission will have ultimate authority to approve publication of survey results.



### PM Mega Integrated Textile Sector and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks

- **PM MITRA Textile Park** has been **launched in Maharashtra's Amravati**.
- **PM MITRA Parks** are aimed at **creating world-class industrial infrastructure that would attract large scale investment** including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and **encourage innovation and job creation within the sector**.
  - It is **inspired by 5F vision** i.e., **Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign**.
  - It **reduces logistics cost by housing entire value chain** at one location.
  - **Special Purpose Vehicle owned by Centre and State Government jointly** to be set up for each park which will oversee the implementation of project.



### Sand and Dust Storms (SDS)

- UN has observed the **first-ever International Day of Combatting SDS on 12th July 2023** to increase cooperation to manage and mitigate effects of SDS.
- **SDS occurs when strong winds meet bare or dry soil, lifting large amounts of sand and dust into the atmosphere**.
  - **Around 2 million tonnes of sand and dust enter the atmosphere annually**.
  - **Primary hotspots** are Sahara Desert, Middle East, Taklamakan Desert in northwest China, southwest Asia, etc.
  - SDS can **cause crop damage, affecting food security**; inhalation of fine particles carried by these storms can lead to **respiratory issues, allergies etc**.

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|  <p><b>Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC)</b></p>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At 12th MGC meeting, India and its partner countries decide to <b>establish Mekong Ganga Cooperation Business Council</b> to expand exchanges in agriculture &amp; water resource management</li><li>• MGC initiative comprising <b>six countries — India, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam</b> — was launched in 2000.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ It aims to <b>boost cooperation</b> in a range of areas including <b>connectivity, education, tourism and culture.</b></li></ul></li></ul>  |
|  <p><b>Nomadic Elephant – 2023</b></p>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is a joint military exercise between <b>India-Mongolia.</b></li></ul>  |
|  <p><b>Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• North Korea has tested <b>Hwasong-18 ICBM</b>. Hwasong-18 <b>uses solid propellants that allow it to fire faster</b> and accelerate more quickly at liftoff.</li><li>• ICBMs are <b>ballistic missiles</b> that have a range of <b>over 5,500 km and have nuclear weapons delivery technology.</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Presently, in addition to North Korea, Russia, U.S, France, UK, China, <b>India</b>, and Israel have documented <b>land-based ICBM.</b></li><li>➤ <b>Agni-5 is the ICBM of India.</b> It was <b>developed under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.</b></li></ul></li></ul>  |
|  <p><b>Grand Slam</b></p>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Spain's Carlos Alcaraz</b> has defeated Novak Djokovic in <b>2023 Wimbledon men's final.</b></li><li>• <b>Grand Slam refers</b> to the accomplishment of <b>winning all four major championships-</b> championships of <b>Australia, France, Britain (Wimbledon), and United States-in same calendar season.</b></li><li>• <b>Career Grand Slam</b> refers to the <b>accomplishment of winning each of the four major championships during a player's career.</b></li></ul>  |
|  <p><b>Personality in news</b></p>                     | <p><b>Aruna Asaf Ali (1909- 1996)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• She is popularly known as <b>'Grand Old Lady' of Independence Movement.</b></li><li>• <b>Contribution</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ She actively <b>participated in the Salt Satyagraha in 1930.</b></li><li>➤ She is known for <b>hoisting the Indian flag at Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai during Quit India Movement in 1942.</b></li><li>➤ Post-independence, she worked towards <b>upliftment of women status by encouraging women education.</b> Started a <b>weekly journal 'Weekly'</b> and <b>newspaper 'Patriot'</b> to attain this objective.</li><li>➤ <b>In 1958, she served as first elected Mayor of Delhi.</b></li></ul></li><li>• <b>Awards: Padma Vibhushan (1992), Bharat Ratna (1997).</b></li><li>• <b>Values: Patriotism, Courage, Sacrifice, etc.</b></li></ul> |
|  <p><b>Places In news</b></p>                          | <p><b>Nigeria (Capital: Abuja)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nigeria has declared a State of Emergency over Food Security.</li><li>• <b>Political Boundaries</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Located on <b>western coast of Africa.</b></li><li>➤ Bordered by <b>Niger (north), Chad and Cameroon (east), Gulf of Guinea of Atlantic Ocean (south), and Benin (west).</b></li><li>➤ Africa's <b>most populous country.</b></li></ul></li><li>• <b>Geographical features</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Major rivers:</b> Niger, Benue etc.</li><li>➤ <b>Highest peak:</b> Chappal Waddi.</li><li>➤ Much of Nigeria is covered with <b>plains and savannas.</b></li><li>➤ Often called as <b>Giant of Africa.</b></li></ul></li></ul>                 |