NEWS TODAY

WORLD BANK RELEASED WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2023

- Report titled **"Migrants, Refugees and Societies"** proposes an **integrated framework to maximize development impacts of cross-border movements on both destination and origin countries and on migrants and refugees** themselves.
  - ➤ It **categorised migrants into four types –** Refugees with skills in demand, economic migrants with skills that match with demand, distressed migrants and refugees.
- **Key highlights**
  - ➤ **About 184 million people across the world,** including 37 million refugees **lack citizenship in country in which they live.**
  - ➤ There is **120% income gain for Indians working abroad as compared to 40% income gain through internal migration.**
  - ➤ **Low skilled Indian migrants,** who migrated to U.S, tend to see a significant **gain in their income of around 500%.**
  - ➤ **India-US, India-Bangladesh and India- Gulf Cooperating Council** considered among the top migrant corridors.
- **Recommendations of report**
  - ➤ Adoption of a **'Match and Motive' Framework,** based on how well **migrants' skills match the needs of destination countries** and on the **motive for their movement.**
  - ➤ **Origin countries** should integrate **labour migration in their development strategy.**
  - ➤ **Destination countries** should use **strong match migration** to meet their labour needs and **facilitate migrants' inclusion.**

ABOUT MIGRANTS

- **Migrants** are those who **change their country of habitual residence** and who are **not citizens of their country of residence.**
- **Significance of migration:** Fulfilment of labour requirements, Income growth and improved standard of living, Remittance and knowledge transfer, etc.
- **Challenges of migration:** Brain drain, difficulties in socio-economic inclusion and lack of rights etc.

OPEN NETWORK FOR DIGITAL COMMERCE (ONDC) MAY DRIVE INDIA'S DIGITAL CONSUMPTION TO USD 320-340 BILLION BY 2030: REPORT

- Report titled `**Democratising Digital Commerce in India'** was launched by ONDC with McKinsey & Company as knowledge partners.
- **Key highlights**
  - ➤ ONDC will **facilitate India to record 500 million digitally transacting consumers by 2030,** increasing 3-4 times from 165 - 190 million in FY22.
  - ➤ **Lack of comfort** with online shopping, **low penetration of business-to-business sellers** (1-1.5 percent), and **high supply chain costs** are key challenges in India's digital commerce ecosystem.
- ONDC was launched by **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry** to control digital monopolies.
  - ➤ It **promotes open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services** over digital or electronic networks.
  - ➤ Task to **integrate e-commerce platforms on ONDC** has been assigned to Quality Council of India.
  - ➤ ONDC does **not require the use of same platform/application** by buyer and seller to do a business transaction.
- **Significance of ONDC**
  - ➤ Promotion of **local languages, products and cultural heritage.**
  - ➤ Creation of **opportunities for small businesses and artisans.**
  - ➤ **Equitable and fair treatment for all stakeholders** due to absence of any preferred sellers.
  - ➤ **Growth of digital commerce ecosystem** in India.

WHAT IS ONDC?
- Market and Community-led initiative
- An open network
- Eliminates the need for a central intermediary
- An enabler for massive digital commerce expansion
- An enabler for broad-based innovation

WHAT IS ONDC NOT?
- A Government Regulatory Body
- An application or a platform
- A central intermediary
- A medium to help digitize businesses

RELATED NEWS
- NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL) has **launched NOCS platform to provide reconciliation and settlement services for transactions** undertaken on ONDC network.
  - □ NOCS, **developed under guidance of RBI,** will enable **smooth, secure and timely transfer of funds** to network participants.
  - □ It is **integrated with banks, fintechs and e-commerce players** and will soon go live.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MOH&FW) RELEASED NATIONAL HEALTH ACCOUNT (NHA) ESTIMATES, 2019- 2020

- NHA estimates 2019-20 is seventh consecutive NHA estimates report prepared by **National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC),** designated as NHA Technical Secretariat (NHATS) in 2014 by MoH&FW.
  - ➤ It is based on **World Health Organization (WHO) framework of System of Health Accounts, 2011.**
  - ➤ These estimates enable policymakers to **monitor the progress in different health financing indicators of country.**
- **Key findings**

Health Indicators	Meaning	Trend 2019-20 (In comparison to 2013-14)
Total Health Expenditure (THE) as a percent of GDP and Per Capita	• THE constitutes **current and capital expenditures** incurred by **Government and Private Sources** including External funds. • THE as a percentage of **GDP indicates health spending relative to country's economic development.** • THE per capita **indicates health expenditure per person in country.**	• THE as a **percentage of GDP Declined** from 4% to 3.3% . • **THE per capita increased to 4,863** from ₹3,638.
Current Health Expenditure (CHE) as a percent of THE	• CHE constitutes **only recurrent (operational) expenditures** for healthcare purposes net all capital expenditures.	• **Declined** from 93% to **90.52%.**
Government Health Expenditure (GHE) as a percent of THE	• GHE constitutes spending under all **schemes funded and managed by Union, State, and Local Governments** including quasi-Governmental organizations and donations channelled through Government organizations.	• **Increased** from 28.6% to **41.41%.**
Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) as a percent of THE	• OOPE are **expenditures directly made by households** at the point of receiving healthcare.	• **Declined** from 64.2% to **47.1%.**
Share of Social Security Expenditure (SSE) on health as percent of THE	• SSE includes **social health insurance program, government-financed health insurance schemes, and medical reimbursements** made to government employees.	• **Increased** from 6% to **9.3%**
Private Health Insurance Expenditures as a percent of THE	• It constitutes **spending through health insurance companies where households or employers pay a premium to be covered** under a specific health plan.	• **Increased to 7%** from 3.4%.
External/ Donor Funding for health as percent of THE	• It constitutes **all funding available to country by assistance from donors.**	• **Increase to 0.5%** from 0.3%.

FIRST EVIDENCE OF INDUSTRIAL FLY-ASH IN AN ANTARCTIC ICE CORE

- **Spheroidal carbonaceous particles (SCP), a component of fly ash,** have been identified by researchers for the first time in an Antarctic ice core, which are dated back to 1936.
  - ➤ SCPs have **no other anthropogenic or natural sources other than fossil fuel combustion.** Thus, they are an unambiguous environmental indicator of industrialisation.
- **Fly Ash is a fine powder,** which is the **by-product of burning coal in Thermal Power Stations (TPS).**
  - ➤ **Indian coal is of low grade with ash content of 30-45 %,** in comparison to imported coal (10-15%).
  - ➤ Fly ash disposal not only **requires large area of land** but is also **pollutes air and water.**
  - ➤ It **resembles Portland cement but it is chemically different.**
  - ➤ Fly ash is **toxic due to organic pollutants,** heavy metals etc.
- **Composition:** Substantial amounts of **oxides of silica, aluminium and calcium.** Arsenic, Boron, Chromium, lead etc. in trace concentrations.
- **Uses of fly ash: Agriculture** (improves water holding capacity and soil aeration), **Construction industry** (manufacturing of cement, bricks etc.).

GOVERNMENT MEASURES

- Mobile app for ash management-**ASH TRACK.**
- **Mandatory use of fly ash-based products** in all Government schemes e.g. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana.
- **Maharashtra became first state** to adopt **Fly Ash Utilisation Policy, 2016.**

CENTRE TO PUSH MILK, CATTLE PRODUCTIVITY IN UNTAPPED DISTRICTS

- **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying** has organized awareness Programme **"Pashudhan Jagruti Abhiyaan"** under the **campaign on Inclusive Development.**
  - Program was designed to **help farmers gain a better understanding of the latest practices and techniques in animal husbandry and dairy farming,** thereby improving their livelihoods.
  - It **aims to effectively transform 112 most under-developed districts** across the country by organising around 16,000 village-level camps.
  - Two Animal Health camps will be organised in all aspirational districts, and in each health camp 100 farmers will be participating.
- **Status of Dairy Sector in India**
  - India is ranked **1st in milk production** and has **largest bovine population in the world.**
  - **India accounts for about 23% of global milk production and produced 221.1 million tonnes in 2021-22.**
  - Dairy is the **single largest agricultural commodity contributing 5% of national** economy and employs 80 million dairy farmers directly.
  - **Top 5 milk-producing states:** Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Initiatives taken in Dairy Sector**
  - **Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund** to augment Milk processing and Meat processing.
  - **National Programme for Dairy development** to strengthen dairy infrastructure for procurement of milk products.
  - **Kisan Credit Card to livestock farmers.**

ALSO IN NEWS

Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)	• SFIO has increased its capacity in FY23 and completed 23 investigations. • **SFIO (Headquarter: New Delhi)** is a multi-disciplinary organization under **Ministry of Corporate Affairs.** ◦ It consist experts in field of **accountancy, forensic auditing, law, information technology, investigation, company law, capital market and taxation** for detecting and prosecuting or recommending for prosecution white-collar crimes/frauds. ◦ Accorded **statutory status under Companies Act, 2013.** ◦ **Power to arrest accused people** for violation of Company law. ◦ To assist officers of SFIO on investigations, **Computer Forensic and Data Mining Laboratory (CFDML)** was set up in 2013.
Zero Shadow Day (ZSD)	• Bengaluru and all places along 13° North Latitude experienced a ZSD, **when vertical objects appear to cast no shadow.** • For **every point on Earth** between **Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn,** there are two ZSDs a year. ◦ One falls **during Uttarayan** when Sun moves northwards, and other is during **Dakshinayan when Sun moves southward.** ◦ Uttarayan and Dakshinayan happen because **Earth's rotation axis is tilted at an angle of roughly 23.5° to the axis of revolution around the Sun.**
Air pollution can slow down brain development in infants: Study	• A study has revealed that **poor indoor air quality can impair cognitive development in children under 2 years.** • The **high PM 2.5 concentration in Indoors can move from respiratory tract to the brain** and affects its cognitive functions. ◦ It also affects the **development of other organs and often results in impaired lungs** and making them vulnerable to metabolic diseases. • PM 2.5 are **fine inhalable particles,** with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometres and smaller.
The Big Catch-Up	• **WHO, UNICEF, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation,** along with **Immunization Agenda 2030** and other health partners, are implementing the **"The Big Catch-up".** • It is a targeted global effort to **boost vaccination among children** aiming to reverse the **declines in childhood vaccinations driven by COVID-19** pandemic. ◦ It will have a particular focus on **20 countries including India where three quarters of the children who missed vaccinations** in 2021 live. ◦ It will **strengthen healthcare workforces, improve health service delivery, build demand for vaccines and address obstacles** to restoring immunization.

Contaminated cough syrup	• **World Health Organisation (WHO) has raised a global medical alert** regarding the presence of contaminants in Indian manufactured cough syrup.
	• WHO Medical Product Alert refers to a batch of **substandard (contaminated) GUAIFENESIN SYRUP TG SYRUP** identified in Marshall Islands and Micronesia.
	  ➢ **Guaifenesin is an expectorant used to relieve chest congestion** and symptoms of cough.
	• WHO analysed the sample and found that it **contain contaminants diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol.**
	  ➢ Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol are **toxic to humans when consumed and can prove to be fatal.**

Shingrix vaccine	• **GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Pharma has launched vaccine "Shingrix"** in India to prevent shingles.
	  ➢ Shingles is caused by the **reactivation of the varicella zoster virus (VZV),** same virus that **causes chickenpox.**
	  ➢ Those suffering from diabetes, heart disease and kidney diseases are at an increased risk of developing shingles because of weakened immunity.
	• **Shingrix** aims to **prevent shingles (herpes zoster) and post-herpetic neuralgia in adults aged 50 years or more.**
	  ➢ It is the **world's first non-live, recombinant subunit vaccine** to be given **intramuscularly in two doses.**
	  ➢ It was approved by US Food and Drug Administration and European Commission.

Uric Acid ($C_5H_4N_4O_3$)	• Scientists at **Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST)** under **Department of Biotechnology** fabricated a bio electronic device to detect uric acid to be used in wearables and point of care diagnoses.
	• Uric Acid is a **heterocyclic compound of carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and hydrogen.**
	  ➢ It is one of the **most important antioxidants.** It helps in **maintaining blood pressure stability and reduces oxidative stress** in living being.
	  ➢ It is **produced as a waste product** in the human body mainly in the liver.

Stolen sculpture of Lord Hanuman	• Stolen Hanuman sculpture belonging to Later Chola period (14th-15th C.E), was retrieved from Australia.
	  ➢ **Sculpture was from** a Vishnu Temple in Ariyalur district of Tamil Nadu.
	  ➢ So far, **251 antiquities have been retrieved back from different countries,** out of which 238 have been brought back since 2014.
	• **India Pride Project is a global organisation dedicated to restoring India's lost heritage.**
	  ➢ It's a network of art lovers who **use historical documents and social media to track down stolen sacred artefacts** from Indian temples and facilitate their return.

Temples in news	**Thirunelly Temple, Kerala**
	• Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has urged the government to conserve **15th century structures at Sree Mahavishnu Temple at Thirunelly** during the ongoing renovation of temple.
	  ➢ **Chuttambalam** or the structure around sanctum sanctorum has been pulled down.
	• Built in traditional Kerala architecture, it is situated on **banks of stream Papanashini,** on the side of **Brahmagiri** hills in Wayanad, Kerala.
	  ➢ It is believed that here the idol of **Lord Vishnu was installed by Lord Brahma.**
	  ➢ On western side is the **cave temple Gunnika,** dedicated to **Lord Shiva.**
	  ➢ So, this temple is blessed with **trinity of Shiva, Vishnu (main diety) and Brahma.**
	
	Sree Seetharama Swamy Temple, Thrissur, Kerala
	• Prime Minister unveiled **Kerala's largest Hanuman statue of 55 feet tall at Seetharama Swamy Temple**.
	  ➢ Thrissur Pooram is considered as the **mother of all Poorams (Temple Festivals of Kerala).** It is celebrated annually at **Vadakkunnathan Temple** in Thrissur.
	• The temple complex consists of Temples of Lord Seetharama, **Lord Ayyappa and Lord Shiva.**