

NEWS TODAY

SECOND INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR PROSPERITY (IPEF) MINISTERIAL MEETING HOSTED BY US

- IPEF is a **US led framework for 14 participating countries** to **solidify their relationships** and engage in crucial **economic and trade matters** that concern the region.
 - > **IPEF Member countries:** The United States, India, Australia, Brunei, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- The framework is structured around four pillars relating to **Trade (Pillar I); Supply Chains (Pillar II); Clean Economy (Pillar III); and Fair Economy (Pillar IV)**.
 - > **India has joined Pillars II to IV** of IPEF while it has an observer status in Pillar-I.
- At this meeting, **negotiations under the Supply Chains (Pillar-II) were substantially concluded** while good progress was reported under the other IPEF Pillars.
- **Key highlight**

 <p>Pillar II (Supply Chains)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make supply chains resilient and well-integrated through crisis response measures. • Cooperation for mitigation of disruptions to better ensure business continuity, and improve logistics and connectivity. • Promoting investments particularly in critical sectors and production of key goods. • Upskilling and reskilling of workers, and increasing comparability of skills credentials frameworks across IPEF.
 <p>Pillar III (Clean Economy)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aiming to advance cooperation on research, development, commercialization, availability, accessibility, and deployment of clean energy and climate friendly technologies. • Interested IPEF partners are introducing a regional hydrogen initiative.
 <p>Pillar IV (Fair Economy)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of an agreement that will strengthen implementation of effective anti-corruption and tax measures to boost commerce, trade.

GLOBAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE RISE MAY EXCEED 1.5°C TARGET MUCH EARLIER THAN 2100: WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)

- According to the "Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update 2023-2027" and "State of Global Climate 2022" by WMO the **global average temperature may rise to 1.5°C by 2027**.
- Under the 2015 **Paris Agreement** parties have pledged to **limit the average temperature rise to below 2°C**, while **actively aiming for 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100**.
 - > This was endorsed as a global target by the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2018**.
 - The **2°C target was unacceptable to small island countries** as it implied that their survival was compromised.
 - > The 1.5°C target is expected to **prevent the planet from slipping into further climate crises** like frequent and intense heat waves, droughts, heavy precipitation, rise in sea level, etc.
- **Key reasons for inability to meet target**

CONSEQUENCES OF CROSSING CRITICAL TARGETS		
CLIMATE IMPACTS	Rise of 1.5°C	Rise of 2°C
Arctic: Sea ice-free summer	Once per century	Once per decade
Sea level rise: Exposure to flooding in 2100	31-69 million people worldwide	32-80 million people worldwide
Extreme heat: Exposure at least once every five years	About 14% of global population	About 37% of global population
Severe drought: Increase in urban population	+350 million people worldwide	+411 million people worldwide
Status of coral reefs	70-90% lost	99% lost
Plants and animals: Species losing more than half of their range	6% of insects, 8% of plants, 4% of vertebrates	18% of insects, 16% of plants, 8% of vertebrates

Sources: IPCC, The New York Times, Reuters, The Conversation

- > **Developed countries** like the US, Japan, Russia and Canada who are historically responsible for a major chunk of greenhouse gas emissions have **made little progress in meeting their pledges**.
- > **Build-back measures** undertaken to undo the impact of Covid-19 pandemic **are not sustainable**.

CHINA SELECT COMMITTEE OF US HOUSE RECOMMENDS MAKING INDIA PART OF NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) PLUS

- **NATO Plus 5** is a security arrangement bringing together NATO and five aligned nations (Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Israel, and South Korea) to boost global defence cooperation.
 - NATO is a 31-member military alliance with 29 European nations, and two countries of North America.
- **Importance of recommendation**
 - **For the US**, It is aimed at winning the strategic competition with China across the Indo-Pacific region and ensuring the security of Taiwan.
 - It also aims to effectively implement economic sanctions in partnership with QUAD and G7 allies.
 - India is a key member of the Quad grouping, which also includes the US, Australia and Japan.
 - **For India**, it would facilitate seamless intelligence sharing between these countries and India.
 - India would access the latest military technology without much of a time lag.
- This arrangement is expected to build upon the US and India's close partnership.
 - India doesn't have any defence treaty with the US, however, it has been granted the status of a "Major Defence Partner" with Strategic Trade Authorization 1 (STA-1) category.
 - This status facilitates license exemption for importing sensitive technology.

DELHI HIGH COURT SET UP A NATIONAL RARE DISEASES COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL POLICY FOR RARE DISEASES (NPRD), 2021

● **National Rare Diseases Committee (five-member panel)** will also look into the cases of patients enrolled with the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, and the manner in which their treatment can begin.

➢ It will ensure its implementation in an efficient manner and ensure that its benefits reach patients.

● NPRD 2021 aims at lowering the incidence and prevalence of rare diseases based on an integrated and comprehensive preventive strategy encompassing awareness generation, premarital, post-marital etc.

● Salient features of NPRD, 2021

➢ The rare diseases have been identified and categorized into 3 groups

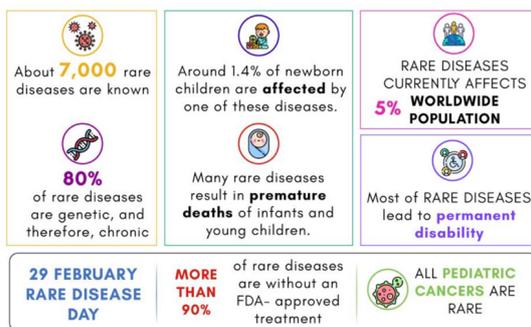
- **Group 1:** Disorders amenable to one-time curative treatment.
- **Group 2:** Diseases requiring long term/lifelong treatment having relatively lower cost of treatment.
- **Group 3:** Diseases with very high cost and lifelong therapy.

➢ **Financial support upto Rs. 50 lakhs** is provided to the patients suffering from any category of the rare diseases.

➢ **Promotion of Research and development** and local production of medicines to lower the cost of treatment for rare diseases.

Rare Disease

The WHO, defines rare disease as often debilitating lifelong disease or disorder with a prevalence of 1 or less, per 1000 population.



RELATED INFORMATION

Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA) status

- MNNA status is a designation under U.S. law that provides foreign partners with certain benefits in the areas of defense trade and security cooperation.
- While MNNA status provides military and economic privileges, it does not entail any security commitments to the designated country.
- The US has designated 30 other countries including Japan, South Korea, Israel, etc as MNNA
- India is not a MNNA.

ICMR CONFIRMS INFECTION GEOGRAPHY OF DENGUE HAS GROWN FROM EIGHT STATES IN 2001 TO ACROSS THE COUNTRY

● Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) confirmed that dengue's infection geography has expanded significantly in the last two decades, with an 11-fold increase and repeated outbreaks.

➢ It is now endemic in more than 100 countries, and according to the World Health Organization half of the world population now at risk.

● Climate change, urbanised environments that are temperature controlled, shortage of entomologists, etc. have enhanced risk of dengue.

● The dengue virus is transmitted by female mosquitoes, mainly of the species *Aedes aegypti* and to a lesser extent, *Aedes albopictus*.

➢ These mosquitoes are also vectors of the chikungunya, yellow fever and Zika viruses.

● Problems in the control of *Aedes* borne disease:

- Day biting habit and multiple biting
- Long incubation period and eggs retained up to one year
- Fast transport and container breeding
- Human environment, and intermittent water supply
- Poor waste management at construction sites

● **Way ahead:** Developing vaccines, increasing awareness and promoting prevention, people's participation, use of the technology to map vulnerable areas, etc.

'ROUTE OF DEVELOPMENT': IRAQ UNVEILS \$17 BILLION PROJECT LINKING EUROPE, WEST ASIA

- Iraq's ambitious **road and rail infrastructure project** 'Route of Development' will link **Europe, West Asia, and Asia**.

➤ It also envisage development of **Grand Faw Port** in the oil-rich south of Iraq linking it to the Turkish border.

➤ To develop a **"smart industrial city"** adjacent to this port.

- **Significance of the route**

➤ It will boost **interdependence** between the countries of the region hence promoting peace in the region.

➤ This project is presented as a **key regional transportation hub** rivalling the **Egypt's Suez Canal** by shortening travel time between Asia and Europe.

➤ It also envisions facilitating the transportation of tourists and pilgrims to Shiite holy sites in Iraq and the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia for the Haj pilgrimage.

➤ It's a **key pillar of a sustainable non-oil economy** and holds the key to unlocking development in vast areas of Iraq.

- Iraq hope to **lift up its infrastructure** that has been **ravaged by** the US invasion and subsequent war in 2003, and the fight against the Islamic State group.



ALSO IN NEWS



ISO (International Organization for Standardization)

- **44th ISO COPOLCO (ISO's committee on consumer policy)** Plenary witnessed keen interest and successful multilateral participation.
- **About ISO:**
 - It is an **international body with 168 countries as members**.
 - It develops **standards for the world impacting a diverse range of business and social sectors**.
 - Through **COPOLCO, ISO involves the wider public in the process of standardization**.
- India was one of the founding members of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).
 - **Bureau of Indian Standards is a member of the ISO.**



Code of Practice on Disinformation

- Twitter has pulled out of the **European Union's voluntary Code of Practice on Disinformation**.
 - **Twitter platform** is legally required to **comply with** as a very large online platform (**VLOP**) under the **EU's Digital Services Act (DSA)**.
 - DSA is a **first-of-a-kind regulatory toolbox** globally and sets a benchmark for a regulatory approach to online intermediaries.
- It was launched in 2022 with an **objective to prevent profiteering** from **disinformation** and **fake news**, as well as **increasing transparency** and curbing the spread of **bots** and **fake accounts**.



REWARD Program

- The Secretary, Department of Land Resources under Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) reviewed the Implementation **Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD) program**.
- **About**
 - **Ministry:** MoRD
 - **Objective:** **Strengthen institutional capacities to adopt improved watershed management** for increasing farmers resilience and support value chains.
 - **External support:** Financial assistance from World Bank
 - **Coverage:** Karnataka and Odisha
 - **Tenure:** 2021 to 2026
- **Other feature:** It is contiguous in scope to the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) 2.0

 <p>The Foucault pendulum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One of the features of the new Parliament building is a Foucault pendulum suspended from its 'Constitutional Gallery' area.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It has been designed and installed by the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Kolkata.• About Foucault pendulum:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Foucault Pendulum is named for the French physicist Jean Foucault who first used it in 1851 to demonstrate the rotation of the earth.➤ It was the first satisfactory demonstration of the earth's rotation using laboratory apparatus rather than astronomical observations.
 <p>Study of Spatial distribution of Seasonal Snow Cover (in Himachal Pradesh)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study was conducted by the Centre on Climate Change of the Himachal Pradesh Council for Science Technology and Environment (Himcoste) and the Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad.• Key Findings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Area under snow cover dropped from 23,542 sq km in 2019-20 to 19,183 sq km in 2020-21, a decline of 18.52%.➤ Basin area of Ravi, Sutlej, Chenab and Beas, recorded reduction in terms of the total monthly average area in 2020-21.➤ Late snowfall patterns that extend into summer were observed, affect the weather cycle, resulting in erratic rain, snowfall and heat and ultimately water availability.
 <p>Maritime Exercise Al Mohed Al Hindi 23</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The bilateral exercise 'Al Mohed Al Hindi 23' is between Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force (RSNF).
 <p>Gongadi shawls</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Telangana's woollen gongadi shawls are refashioned into all-weather shoes for farmers by alumni of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.• Gongadi is the traditional woollen blanket woven by the indigenous Kuruma and Kuruba pastoralist communities.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Wool of the indigenous Deccani sheep (known locally as Nalla gorrae) is used.• The coarse woollen blanket is famous for its durability and versatility and it does not fade but grows darker in time.• It is produced organically, without using any dyes either natural or synthetic.
 <p>Personality in News</p>	<p>Allama Muhammad Iqbal (1877-1938)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mohammad Iqbal was born and settled in Sialkot.• He took education in Arabic, Persian, and Urdu.• He taught philosophy, practised law, got involved in politics, and also attended the second Round Table Conference.• He is considered the brain behind the idea of Pakistan.• King George V decorated him with knighthood• Values: Courage of conviction
 <p>Places in News</p>	<p>Somalia (Capital: Mogadishu)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Somalia to introduce direct universal suffrage in 2024.• Political Boundaries:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Easternmost country of Africa, on the Horn of Africa.➤ Somalia is bounded by the Gulf of Aden to the north, the Indian Ocean to the east, Kenya and Ethiopia to the west, and by Djibouti to the northwest.• Geographical Features:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Somali peninsula consists mainly of a tableland of young limestone and sandstone formations.➤ Major Rivers: The Juba and Shabelle rivers➤ Highest Point: Surud Cad. 