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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

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PIB June 19

KRISHI SAKHI CONVERGENCE PROGRAMME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Agriculture)



Context: Recently, the Prime Minister of India granted certificates to over 30,000 women from Self Help Groups (SHGs) as 'Krishi Sakhis' under the Krishi Sakhi Convergence Programme (KSCP).

Krishi Sakhi Convergence Programme (KSCP)

- **About:** It is part of the 'Lakhpati Didi' initiative aimed at creating 3 crore financially empowered women, including Krishi Sakhis.
- **Focus**: Transforming rural India by empowering women as Krishi Sakhis, who are trained and certified as para-extension workers. This program aligns with the broader goals of the "Lakhpati Didi" program.
- Krishi Sakhis are chosen for their role as agriculture para-extension workers due to their status as trusted community resources and experienced farmers. Their deep connection within farming communities ensures they are respected and their advice is valued, making them effective in disseminating agricultural knowledge.
- **Training is being provided**: Krishi Sakhis undergo comprehensive training across various modules to enhance their capabilities as para-extension workers:
  - **Agro Ecological Practices**: Covering activities from land preparation to harvest.
  - **Organising Farmer Field Schools**: Teaching methods to organize and manage farmer education programs.
  - **Seed Banks Establishment and Management**: Skills in setting up and maintaining seed banks.
  - **Soil Health and Conservation**: Techniques for maintaining soil health and conserving moisture.
  - **Integrated Farming Systems:** Understanding and promoting integrated approaches to farming.
  - **Basics of Livestock Management**: Fundamentals of managing livestock alongside crop farming.
  - **Bio Inputs Preparation and Use**: Training on preparing organic inputs and managing bio input shops.
  - **Basic Communication Skills:** Developing essential communication skills for effective interaction with farmers.
- **Current Status**: Currently, Krishi Sakhis are undergoing refresher training with a special emphasis on Natural Farming and Soil Health Cards. This training is conducted through DAY-NRLM agencies in collaboration with MANAGE, aiming to deepen their expertise and ensure they are equipped with the latest agricultural practices and knowledge.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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NALANDA UNIVERSITY

(Syllabus GS Paper 1 – Art and Culture)

As a new campus rises at an ancient site, the story of Nalanda

SANTOSH SINGH & ARJUN SENGUPTA
PATNA, NEW DELHI JUNE 19

THE CAMPUS of Nalanda University was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday.

Spread across 455 acres, it is located in Rajgir, roughly 100 km from Patna, and merely 12 km away from the ruins of the eponymous ancient Buddhist monastery, considered to be among the greatest centres of learning in all of Antiquity.

EXPLAINED EDUCATION

'Reviving' Nalanda

It was then President APJ Abdul Kalam who officially proposed 'reviving' Nalanda in 2006. Addressing the Bihar Assembly, he said: "To recapture [Nalanda's] past glory... it has been proposed to establish a Bodhgaya Nalanda Indo-Asian Institute of Learning in partnership with select Asian countries".

In 2007, the proposal to re-establish Nalanda was endorsed at the East Asia Summit in Mandaue, Philipines. This endorsement was re-iterated in the East Asia Summit of 2009, in Hua Hin, Thailand.

In total, 17 countries other than India — Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam — have helped set up of the university. Ambassadors of these countries attended Wednesday's inauguration ceremony.

The Bihar Assembly, in 2007, passed the University of Nalanda Bill to facilitate the creation of a new, international university near the site of the ancient learning centre in Rajgir. In 2010, Parliament replaced this Act with the Nalanda University Bill, which deemed the proposed university to be one of "national importance", and laid down rules regarding how it would be governed.

In 2013, the masterplan for the campus, proposed by renowned architect B V Doshi's Vastu Shilpa Consultants, was chosen after an international competion.



Administrative block of the newly inaugurated Nalanda University. *Nalanda*

Centre of research, learning

Nalanda University admitted its very first batch of fifteen students in 2014, to the School of Historical Studies, and the School of Ecology and Environmental studies. Classes were held in the Rajgir Convention Centre, with Bihar government-operated Hotel Tathagat acting as temporary hostel premises for the students. The faculty comprised six teachers.

Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen, who had been associated with the project since 2007, became the University's first Chancellor, and then-President Pranab Mukherjee became the first Visitor.

Since 2014, four more schools have been established — the School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religion, the School of Languages and Literature, the School of Management Studies, and the School of International Relations and Peace Studies. The university currently offers two-year Master's courses, PhD programmes, and a few diploma and certificate courses.

Campus to behold

By 2022, 90% of the campus's construction was completed. At the time, the university boasted 800 students, including 150 international students from 31 countries. At full capacity, the campus can accommodate as many as 7,500 students and teachers.

With a built area of only 8%, university officials say that the campus attempts to "match the architectural and geographical setting the ancient Nalanda University would have provided". In fact, the administrative block specifically recreates the exposed brick architecture, and elevated staircase that is the signature image of the Nalanda ruins.

That being said, the campus is a mix of the modern and the traditional. Natural light streams into classrooms' smart wideboards and electronic podiums. While air-conditioned, it utilises various methods, such as hollow walls, to provide natural cooling.

Water bodies — Kamal Sagar ponds — cover over 100 acres of the campus's area. Another 100 acres are covered in greenery. The campus boasts a drinking water treatment plant, and a water recycling plant, as well as a yoga centre, a state-of-the-art auditorium, a library, an archival centre, and a fully equipped sports complex. No cars are allowed inside.

Nalanda Mahavira

Mahavira in Sanskrit/Pali means 'great monastery'. Nalanda Mahavira was active from the fifth to thirteenth century CE.

The chronicles of seventh century Chinese traveller Hsuan Tsang provide the most detailed description of ancient Nalanda. Hsuan Tsang estimated that at the time of his visit, the monastery housed 10,000 students, 2,000 teachers, and a gargantuan retinue of servants.

Multiple scholars, however, have disputed this figure based on archaeological evidence from the ancient university's ruins. That being said, Nalanda was definitely not an average Buddhist *vihara*.

"Under its aged and saintly abbot, Silabhadra, Nalanda also taught the Vedas, Hindu philosophy, logic, grammar and medicine. It would seem that the student population was not not confined to the Buddhist order, but that candidates of other faiths who succeeded in passing a strict oral examination were admitted," historian A L Basham wrote in his classic *The Wonder that was India* (1954).

Context: Recently, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University.

Nalanda University

- **Location**: Situated in Rajgir, Bihar, spans 455 acres, approximately 100 km from Patna. It neighbors the ancient Buddhist monastery, renowned for its historical significance in learning.
- **Founded by**: Kumar gupta of the Gupta dynasty in Bihar in the early 5th century.
- The current site of **Nalanda is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.**
- **Proposed by**: President APJ Abdul Kalam in 2006, the revival aimed to restore Nalanda's past glory through an international educational initiative, culminating in the establishment of Nalanda University under the Nalanda University Act of 2010.
- **Centre of Research and Learning:** Founded in 2014, Nalanda University began with two schools and a small faculty.
    - It has since expanded to encompass five schools offering diverse disciplines, including Buddhist Studies, Management, and International Relations.
    - By 2022, 90% of the campus construction was completed, housing 800 students from 31 countries.

Nalanda Mahavira

- **Meaning**: Mahavira in Sanskrit/Pali means 'great monastery'.
- **Active Period**: Nalanda Mahavira was active from the fifth to thirteenth century CE.
- **Description**: The chronicles of seventh century Chinese traveller Hsuan Tsang provide the most detailed description of ancient Nalanda. Hsuan Tsang estimated that at the time of his visit, the monastery housed 10,000 students, 2,000 teachers, and a large retinue of servants.

DTE June 19

STATE OF GLOBAL AIR (SOGA) 2024

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Toxic breath: Air pollution second leading risk factor for children, finds new report

Context: The recently released State of Global Air (SoGA) 2024 report, which includes data from 2021, highlights the devastating impact of polluted air on the youngest and most vulnerable populations, revealing that air pollution contributed to 169,400 deaths among children under five in India, among the highest globally.

State of Global Air (SoGA) 2024

- **About:** It a collaborative assessment by the US-based Health Effects Institute (HEI) and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's Global Burden of Disease (GBD) project.
- **Partnership**: For the first time, this report has been produced in partnership with UNICEF.
- **Countries**: Approximately 200 countries.
- **Objective:** To cut toxic emissions at source and also the greenhouse has emissions to maximise the co-benefits of reducing public health risks and the warming impacts.

Key Findings

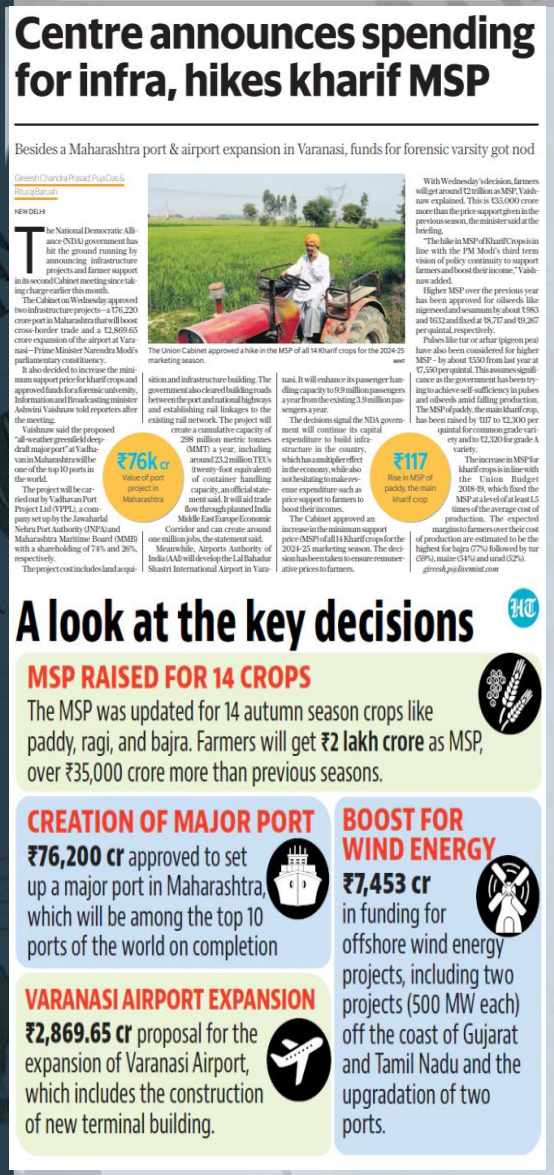
- Air pollution has become the second largest killer globally, after blood pressure, causing 8.1 million deaths in 2021.
- In South Asia alone, 2.6 million deaths were attributed to air pollution.
- **India's Burden**: India, with a population of over one billion, recorded 2.1 million deaths due to air pollution, including 237,000 ozone-related deaths.
    - Rising Vulnerability in the Global South
    - India, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Brazil have seen significant increases in ambient ozone exposures over the past decade.
    - India and China together accounted for nearly 55% of the global particulate matter disease burden, with 2.1 million and 2.3 million deaths respectively in 2021.
- **High Death Rate**: Despite a 53% drop in death rates since 2000 due to cleaner cooking energy, better healthcare, and increased awareness, air pollution remains a significant threat.
- **Childhood Asthma**: Exposure to NO2 from traffic exhaust is a leading cause of childhood asthma, with 55% of 194 countries not meeting WHO air quality guidelines.
- **High NO2 Exposure in Wealthy Nations**: Seven out of ten countries with the highest NO2 exposures are high-income countries in West Asia, Russia, and Turkey.
- **Regional Ozone Exposure**: Countries in West Asia, South Asia, and East Asia reported the highest average ozone exposures in 2020, with South Asia accounting for 56% of all global ozone deaths in 2021.

LIVEMINT

Page 2

MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE (MSP)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)



Centre announces spending for infra, hikes kharif MSP

Besides a Maharashtra port & airport expansion in Varanasi, funds for forensic varsity got nod

Gireesh Chandra Prasad, Puja Das & Rituraj Baruah

NEW DELHI

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government has hit the ground running by announcing infrastructure projects and farmer support in its second Cabinet meeting since taking charge earlier this month.

The Cabinet on Wednesday approved two infrastructure projects—a ₹76,220 crore port in Maharashtra that will boost cross-border trade and a ₹2,869.65 crore expansion of the airport at Varanasi—Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency.

It also decided to increase the minimum support price for kharif crops and approved funds for a forensic university, Information and Broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters after the meeting.

Vaishnaw said the proposed "all-weather greenfield deep-draft major port" at Vadhavan in Maharashtra will be one of the top 10 ports in the world.

The project will be carried out by Vadhavan Port Project Ltd (VPPL), a company set up by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB) with a shareholding of 74% and 26%, respectively.

The project cost includes land acquisition and infrastructure building. The government also cleared building roads between the port and national highways and establishing rail linkages to the existing rail network. The project will create a cumulative capacity of 298 million metric tonnes (MMT) a year, including around 23.2 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent) of container handling capacity, an official statement said. It will aid trade flow through planned India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor and can create around one million jobs, the statement said.

Meanwhile, Airports Authority of India (AAI) will develop the Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi. It will enhance its passenger handling capacity to 9.9 million passengers a year from the existing 3.9 million passengers a year.

The decisions signal the NDA government will continue its capital expenditure to build infrastructure in the country, which has a multiplier effect in the economy, while also not hesitating to make revenue expenditure such as price support to farmers to boost their incomes.

The Cabinet approved an increase in the minimum support price (MSP) of all 14 Kharif crops for the 2024-25 marketing season. The decision has been taken to ensure remunerative prices to farmers.

With Wednesday's decision, farmers will get around ₹2 trillion as MSP, Vaishnaw explained. This is ₹35,000 crore more than the price support given in the previous season, the minister said at the briefing.

"The hike in MSP of Kharif Crops is in line with the PM Modi's third term vision of policy continuity to support farmers and boost their income," Vaishnaw added.

Higher MSP over the previous year has been approved for oilseeds like nigerseed and sesamum by about 1,983 and 1,632 and fixed at ₹8,717 and ₹9,267 per quintal, respectively.

Pulses like tur or arhar (pigeon pea) have also been considered for higher MSP – by about ₹550 from last year at ₹7,550 per quintal. This assumes significance as the government has been trying to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses and oilseeds amid falling production. The MSP of paddy, the main kharif crop, has been raised by ₹117 to ₹2,300 per quintal for common grade variety and to ₹2,320 for grade A variety.

The increase in MSP for kharif crops is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19, which fixed the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times of the average cost of production. The expected margins to farmers over their cost of production are estimated to be the highest for bajra (77%) followed by tur (59%), maize (54%) and urad (52%).

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The Union Cabinet approved a hike in the MSP of all 14 Kharif crops for the 2024-25 marketing season.

₹76k cr — Value of port project in Maharashtra

₹117 — Rise in MSP of paddy, the main kharif crop

A look at the key decisions

MSP RAISED FOR 14 CROPS

The MSP was updated for 14 autumn season crops like paddy, ragi, and bajra. Farmers will get **₹2 lakh crore** as MSP, over ₹35,000 crore more than previous seasons.

CREATION OF MAJOR PORT

₹76,200 cr approved to set up a major port in Maharashtra, which will be among the top 10 ports of the world on completion

VARANASI AIRPORT EXPANSION

₹2,869.65 cr proposal for the expansion of Varanasi Airport, which includes the construction of new terminal building.

BOOST FOR WIND ENERGY

₹7,453 cr in funding for offshore wind energy projects, including two projects (500 MW each) off the coast of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu and the upgradation of two ports.

Context: The Union Cabinet, recently chaired by the Prime Minister at the start of his third term, approved raising minimum support prices (MSPs) for kharif crops, setting them at a minimum of 1.5 times the production cost to ensure farmers receive 50% returns.

Minimum Support Price (MSP)

- **About**: MSP serves as a government-established rate at which crops are bought from farmers, providing them with protection against significant declines in agricultural prices.
- **Announced by**: The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) recommends MSPs for 22 mandated crops and Fair and Remunerative Prices (FRP) for sugarcane.
- **Origin of Concept**: MSP was initially introduced in 1966, drawing inspiration from the Green Revolution.
- **Crops covered:** 7 types of cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, bajra, jowar, ragi and barley)
  - 5 types of pulses (chana, arhar/tur, urad, moong and masoor)
  - 7 oilseeds (rapeseed-mustard, groundnut, soybean, sunflower, sesamum, safflower, niger seed)
  - 4 commercial crops (cotton, sugarcane, copra, raw jute).
- **Factors for Recommending the MSP**: Demand and supply, Cost of production, Price trends in the market, Both domestic and international, inter-crop price parity, Terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture, A minimum of 50 percent as the margin over the cost of production, Implications of MSP on consumers of that product.
- **Recommendation of Swaminathan Committee regarding MSP**
  - To fix minimum support prices (MSP) for crops at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production.
  - Govt. has announced its decision to ensure that farmers receive MSP = 1.5 times of production cost.

THE PRINT June 19

ENERGY TRANSITION INDEX 2024

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

India ranks 63rd on Energy Transition Index, Sweden on top: WEF

Context: India has recently been ranked 63rd on the global Energy Transition Index, highlighting the country's significant improvements in energy equity, security, and sustainability.

Energy Transition Index 2024

- **About:** It is benchmarks 120 countries on their current energy system performance and on the readiness of their enabling environment, finds that while there has been notable progress in energy efficiency and a marked increase in the adoption of clean energy sources, energy transition momentum
- **Published by:** World Economic Forum (WEF)
- **Officially known as**: "Fostering Effective Energy Transition
- **Top Countries:** Sweden, followed by Denmark, Finland, Switzerland and France.
- Bottom Countries: Tanzania, followed by Yamen and Congo.
- Emerging economies such as Brazil and China made notable progress, although 83% of countries moved backwards from last year in at least one of the three energy system performance dimensions – security, equity and sustainability.
- The gap in energy transition performance between advanced and developing economies continues to narrow, although disparities in investments and regulation remain.
- **India's neighbour countries rank**: China 20th Rank, Nepal 100th rank, Bangladesh 109th, Pakistan 113th Rank.

World Economic Forum

- **About:** The WEF is a Swiss nonprofit foundation established in 1971, based in Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Initiated by**: German professor Klaus Schwab
- **Recognized by**: Swiss authorities as the international institution for public-private cooperation.
- **Mission**: Committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas.

LOK ADALAT
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)

SC to organise special Lok Adalat

Context: The Supreme Court has decided to organise a special Lok Adalat to facilitate amicable settlements of suitable pending cases, commemorating the 75th year of its establishment.

Lok Adalat

- **Definition**: It is one of the alternative dispute redressal mechanisms, it is a forum where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably.
- **Statutory Status**: Lok Adalats have been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- **Organization**:
- **Authority to Organize Lok Adalats:**
  - State Legal Services Authority
  - District Legal Services Authority
  - Supreme Court Legal Services Committee
  - High Court Legal Services Committee
  - Taluk Legal Services Committee
- **First Lok Adalat camp:** Organised in Gujarat in 1982.
- **Composition**: Consists of serving or retired judicial officers and other specified persons.
  - Judicial officer as chairman
  - Lawyer (advocate)
  - Social worker.
- **Jurisdiction:** Lok Adalats can settle cases pending before any court or disputes at the pre-litigation stage. However, cases relating to non-compoundable offenses are outside their purview.
- **Power:** They have the same powers as are vested in a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure (1908).
  - They have powers to specify its **own procedure**,
  - All proceedings deemed to be **judicial proceedings** within the meaning of the Indian Penal Code (1860),
  - They deemed to be **a Civil Court** for the purpose of the Code of Criminal Procedure (1973).
- **Final decision of the Lok Adalat:**
  - All the decisions taken are deemed to be a **decree of a Civil Court** or an order of any other court.
  - Every award shall be **final and binding** on all the parties to the dispute.
  - **No appeal** shall lie to any court against the award of the Lok Adalat.

INDIA TODAY June 19

DOUBLE SUN HALO
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

Rare double Sun halo seen in Leh: What is this rare phenomenon?

Context: Recently, a rare celestial phenomenon known as a "double sun halo" was witnessed in the skies over Ladakh.

Double Sun Halo

- **Definition:** It is a rare optical phenomenon characterized by the appearance of two concentric rings around the sun, caused by sunlight refracted through ice crystals in cirrus clouds.
- **Formation**: The formation of a double sun halo is due to the specific orientation of hexagonal ice crystals in cirrus clouds. Random orientation produces the inner 22-degree halo, while horizontal alignment creates the outer 46-degree halo.
- **Appearance**: In this phenomenon, observers can see two distinct halos around the sun - an inner halo at approximately 22 degrees and an outer halo at around 46 degrees from the sun's center.
- **Scientific Study**: Astronomers and atmospheric scientists study sun halos, including double halos, to understand atmospheric optics and ice crystal properties. These studies contribute to weather forecasting and atmospheric research.
- **Rare Phenomenon**: While sun halos are observed in various regions, the occurrence of a double sun halo is particularly rare, making it a captivating and infrequent event in places like Ladakh.
- **Significance**: The double sun halo observed in Ladakh was a striking sight, featuring two concentric rings of light encircling the sun against a clear blue sky.



LIVEMINT

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WIPO TREATY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy/Sci and Tech)



Global IP treaty to help India, but may dilute local laws too

Experts say WIPO treaty fails to address biopiracy, and may lead to dilution of patent laws

Sudeshna Ghoshal & Krishna Yadav

NEW DELHI

A recently adopted global treaty on intellectual property, genetic resources, and traditional knowledge is expected to benefit both India and multinational companies reliant on the country's indigenous knowledge for innovation. But some experts caution it may not be a complete win for India.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) treaty, adopted on 24 May after more than two decades of negotiations, introduces a much-needed legal framework for utilizing genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

India, which has its own set of laws to protect the country's vast resources and traditional knowledge, played a key role in the adoption of the treaty by WIPO. The UN agency has 193 members nations, including the US, the UK, and China.

The treaty has crucial implications for sectors such as pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, as companies must now disclose the sources of their knowledge and ensure it is used ethically and legally, minimizing the risk of legal disputes and international exploitation.

It also requires patent applicants to disclose the origin of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge to ensure indigenous communities receive due recognition and financial benefits from their contributions.

"The treaty could potentially attract investment to India, though several factors will influence the extent of this impact," said Jageshwar Mishra, partner at law firm Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. "These include providing a clearer legal framework for use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge."

The treaty would improve market confidence, Mishra said, as it would ensure that "traditional knowledge and genetic resources are used ethically and legally, minimising the risk of legal disputes".

Subodh Gupta, CEO of Lord's Mark Microbiotech, agreed, emphasizing that the treaty would benefit India's biodiversity and traditional knowledge.

"The treaty ensures that (India's) vast repository of biodiversity is now a part of the global IP framework," he said. "In addition, by acknowledging the role of indigenous peoples, the treaty facilitates increased transparency and strengthens the ethical framework. However, concerns about individual privacy must also be addressed."

Not everyone is as sanguine, though, especially as several changes proposed by India have not been included in the treaty.

"The only reason to celebrate is that the treaty has been adopted despite opposition from developed countries," said Vibha Varshney, consulting editor at *Down To Earth* magazine.

Varshney said the treaty fails to adequately address biopiracy and that India might end up diluting its patent laws as it amends them to align with the treaty.

Legal experts caution that aligning India's Patents Act and the Biological Diversity Act with international treaty standards may require amendments that could potentially dilute existing protections meant to safeguard traditional knowledge and genetic resources.

They also said the WIPO treaty's focus on patents may overlook other forms of intellectual property exploitation. Challenges such as documenting traditional knowledge and ensuring compliance pose additional complexities.

In other words, according to the experts, implementing the treaty in India won't be straightforward and could present significant challenges.

"The Indian Patent Act would require a few amendments to implement this treaty, primarily to: (a) Broaden the scope of disclosure regarding genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge; (b) Introduce new provisions for sanctions, including deemed revocation and other remedies; (c) Empower and authorize the Controller General to establish a nodal office/authority for data collection, source verification, and authentication," explained Subhash Bhatoria, founder and principal at LAWSIB.

Neha Khanduri, counsel at law firm Singhania & Co., shared a similar view. The treaty "does not include any directions for bridging the gap between the patent offices and the resources with accumulated traditional knowledge from Indigenous communities to address the issues of access and benefit sharing," Khanduri said.

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India played a key role in the adoption of the treaty by WIPO. BIKRAMJEET CHAKRABORTY/MINT

GIVING THEIR DUE

THE treaty has crucial implications for sectors such as pharmaceuticals and biotechnology

IT requires firms to disclose the sources of their knowledge and ensure it is used ethically and legally

IT also requires patent applicants to disclose the origin of genetic resources, indigenous inputs

THE objective is to ensure indigenous communities receive due recognition and financial benefits

Context: A recently adopted global WIPO treaty on intellectual property, genetic resources, and traditional knowledge is expected to benefit both India and multinational companies relying on the country's indigenous knowledge for innovation.

WIPO Treaty

- **About:** This is the first WIPO Treaty to address the interface between intellectual property, genetic resources and traditional knowledge
- First WIPO Treaty to include provisions specifically for Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities.
    - This is the 27th treaty under WIPO and the first in the last 10 years.
- **Importance to India**: The treaty is important to India as the country holds 7-8% of global biodiversity and a rich repertoire of knowledge based on these genetic resources.
- **Key provisions**:
    - It will establish in international law a new disclosure requirement for patent applicants whose inventions are based on genetic resources and/or associated traditional knowledge.
    - Broadly, where a claimed invention in a patent application is based on genetic resources, each contracting party shall require applicants to disclose the country of origin or source of the genetic resources.
    - Where the claimed invention in a patent application is based on traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, each contracting party shall require applicants to disclose the Indigenous Peoples or local community, as applicable, who provided the traditional knowledge.
- **Current Status**: At present, only 35 countries have some form of disclosure obligations, most of which are not mandatory and lack appropriate sanctions or remedies for effective implementation.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

- **About**: It is the global forum for intellectual property (IP) services, policy, information, and cooperation.
- **Formation**: 1967.
- **Members:** 193 members.
- **Headquarters**: Geneva, Switzerland.

TIMES OF INDIA
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CHILD NUTRITION REPORT 2024

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Health)



Unicef: India among 20 nations with 'severe child food poverty'

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New Delhi: Unicef's new metric on 'child food poverty' exposes the magnitude of the food and nutrition crisis in children under 5 years of age across the world with India along with neighbouring countries China, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan figuring among the 20 countries home to 65% of the 181 million children globally living in "severe child food poverty".

The numbers show that 1 in 4 children (27%) globally figure in the severe category as they are surviving on extremely poor diets. These findings are part of Unicef's global 'Child Nutriton Report 2024'. The percentage of children living in severe child food poverty in 92 countries with available data ranges from 1% in Belarus to 63% per cent in Somalia with the percentage for India at 40% which is categorised as 'high'.

Unicef defines child food poverty as children's inability to access and consume a nutritious and diverse diet in first 5 years of life. The forces driving severe child food poverty include "poor food environments for children, poor feeding practices and household income poverty affecting children and their families". It is a problem affecting both the poor and non-poor households.

The report cautions that severe child food poverty is driving child undernutrition and percentage of children living in severe child food poverty is three times higher in countries with a high prevalence of stunting.

The findings of this global study hold signficance for India given that the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21) of the Union health ministry puts the prevalence of stunting at 35.5%, wasting at 19.3% and underweight at 32.1% for under 5 children. Even though it is an improvement over NFHS (2015-16) when prevalence of stunting was 38.4%, wasting was 21.0% and underweight was 35.8%, undernutrition continues to be concern.

The UN report also states that children deprived of good nutrition in early childhood do less well at school and have lower earning capacity in adulthood.

Context: Recently, Unicef's new metric on 'child food poverty' has highlighted the severity of the food and nutrition crisis affecting children under 5 years worldwide.

Key Findings of Child Nutrition Report 2024

- According to Unicef's 'Child Nutrition Report 2024', 27% of children worldwide are categorized under severe child food poverty, surviving on inadequate diets.
- **Regional Disparities**: The severity varies widely among countries: from 1% in Belarus to as high as 63% in Somalia, with India notably at 40%, indicating a significant challenge.
- **Definition and Drivers of Child Food Poverty**: Unicef defines child food poverty as the inability of children to access and consume a nutritious and diverse diet in their first five years of life.
    - Contributing factors include poor food environments, inadequate feeding practices, and household poverty affecting both poor and non-poor families.
- **Impact on Child Nutrition and Development**: Severe child food poverty correlates with higher rates of child undernutrition, particularly in countries with prevalent stunting, where the rates are three times higher.
- **India's Nutrition Challenges**: India, as per the National Family Health Survey-5, faces significant undernutrition challenges, with stunting at 35.5%, wasting at 19.3%, and underweight at 32.1% for children under five.

UNICEF

- **Establishment**: It was created in 1946 as the International Children's Emergency Fund (ICEF) by the UN Relief Rehabilitation Administration to aid children affected by World War II.
- **Headquarter**: New York
- **Permanent UN Entity:** In 1953, UNICEF became a permanent part of the United Nations system, evolving its focus beyond emergencies to long-term child welfare and development.
- **Mandated by**: United Nations General Assembly, UNICEF advocates for children's rights, works to fulfill their basic needs, and strives to expand opportunities for their development.
- **Guided by**: UNICEF operates under the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), aiming to establish these rights as universal ethical standards.
- **Honour**: In 1965, UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace for its efforts in fostering international cooperation and understanding among nations.

DTE June 20

BLUE PLANET PRIZE
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

IPBES wins prestigious Blue Planet Prize

Context: The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) was recently selected as one of the two recipients of the 2024 Blue Planet Prize.

Blue Planet Prize

- **About**: It is awarded annually to individuals and organizations to recognize outstanding achievements in scientific research and its application.
- **Awarded by**: Japan's Asahi Glass Foundation
- **Establishment**: In 1992, the year of the Earth Summit.
- **Focus**: These achievements must have helped provide solutions to global environmental problems.
- **Award**: $500,000.

Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

- **About:** It is an independent intergovernmental body established by States to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.
- **Foundation**: It was established in Panama City, in 2012 by 94 Governments.
- **Headquarter**: Bonn, Germany.
- **Relation with UN:** It is not a United Nations body. However, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.
- **Membership:** IPBES currently has 143 member States. Any State that is Member of the United Nations is eligible for IPBES membership.
- **IPBES Structure:**
  - **Plenary:** The governing body of IPBES – made up of the representatives of IPBES member States – usually meets once per year
  - **Observers:** Any State not yet a member of IPBES; the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other biodiversity-related conventions; related UN bodies; as well as many other relevant organizations and agencies.
- **Function:**
  - **Assessments:** On specific themes (e.g., "Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production").
  - **Policy Support:** Identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies, facilitating their use, and catalysing their further development.
  - **Building Capacity & Knowledge:** Identifying and meeting the priority capacity, knowledge and data needs of our member States, experts and stakeholders.
  - **Communications & Outreach**: Ensuring the widest reach and impact of our work.

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