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MK Yadav Sir

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FRONT OF PACKAGE LABELLING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

FSSAI to Tighten Front-of-the-pack Labelling Norms

Aims to make it mandatory to have an additional 'cautionary warning' apart from the star rating on all packaged food items

Shambhavi.Anand
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India's food safety regulator is in talks with companies to include a "cautionary warning" on the amount of added salt, sugar and fat in the front labelling of packaged foods, alongside the proposed star rating system, to help consumers make informed choices, said a senior official.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is in the process of framing rules for front-of-pack nutrition labelling (FOPL) of packaged foods. Its draft guidelines, issued in September, propose star ratings for food quality, among other measures.

"There should be some kind of cautionary warning to indicate how much (of a particular item) can be consumed in one day," the official cited earlier said, requesting not to be named. The "cautionary warning" could be similar to the disclaimers on the front-of-pack of liquor bottles, he said.

"We are still in discussion with the industry about it," the official told ET. "We will try to sensitise the consumers about the levels of fats (sugar and salt)."

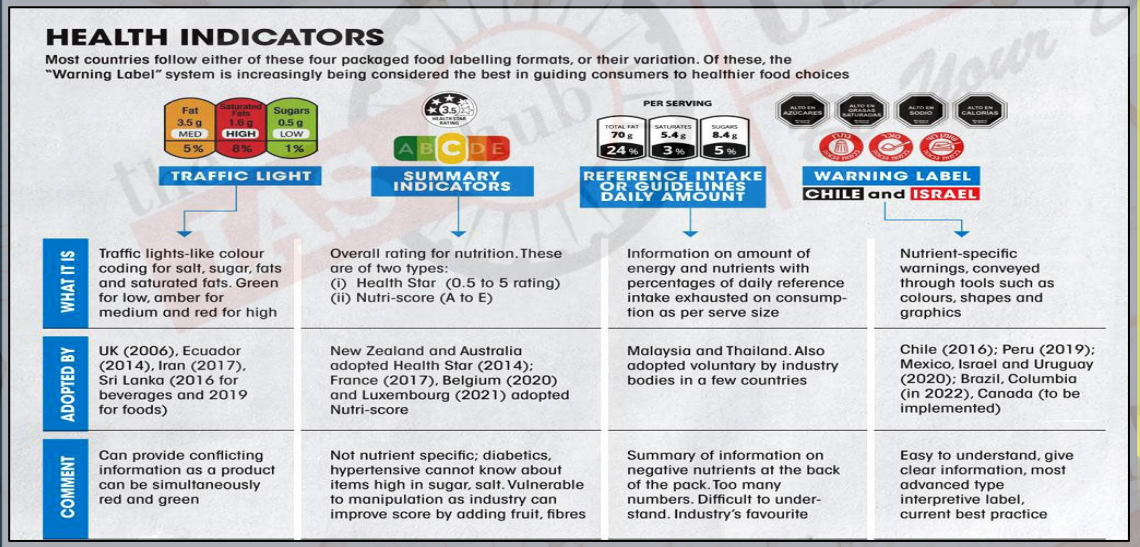
In its draft regulation for FOPL, the regulator proposed star ratings of one to five to indicate how healthy the food items are based on their salt, sugar and fat content. The proposal, however, has been opposed by packaged food makers who say the move will hit their business.

Several types of labels were being considered, including traffic light signs, nutrition score, health star ratings and warning symbols. However, the authority has chosen the star rating system based on the study done by IIM-Ahmedabad, which was roped in by the FSSAI to conduct a detailed report on impact on consumers on front-of-labelling for packaged and processed foods in India.

A similar system has been adopted by Australia and New Zealand. FOPL is the most debated regulation for food packaging, which has been in consultation stages for several years. This was the first time such an external entity is being involved in the labelling guidelines.

The issue has been in the consultation stage for several years, with processed and packaged foods companies conveying reluctance on the same and health activists seeking the strictest possible norm. While there have been multiple discussions with stakeholders, there's been no final decision yet.





Context: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is in the process of framing rules for **front-of pack nutrition labelling (FOPL)** of packaged foods.

Front of Package Labelling (FOPL)

- The **World Health Organisation (WHO) defines FoP labels** as nutrition labelling systems that are presented on the front of food packages in the principal field of vision, and present simple, often graphic information on the nutrient content or nutritional quality of products.
- The **Codex Alimentarius Commission mentions that FoP labelling** is designed to assist in interpreting nutrient declarations.
- An expert group established by the FSSAI in 2013 in **India first suggested Front of Package Labelling (FOPL) in 2014.**
- In 2019, the FSSAI **issued draft notification Food Safety Standards** (Labelling and Display) Regulations.
- The proposal requires food products to have colour-coded labelling.
- The FSSAI delinked FOPL from general labelling laws in December 2019.

LIVE MINT

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HEDGE FUNDS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Hedge funds boost treasury shorts on doubts over rally

Hedge funds are betting this year's stellar start for Treasuries is too good to last, quietly building up the biggest bearish bet on bond futures on record. An aggregate measure of net-short non-commercial positions across all Treasuries maturities has hit 2.4 million contracts, according to the latest data from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission as of 24 January. The positions cover a multitude of investment strategies from outright bets to yield-curve wagers to relative trades to hedges, but the overall direction clashes with the narrative that a peak in rate hikes is near and a US recession will push investors back into bonds. "The surge of bets against Treasuries may be driven both by the risk for a hawkish Federal Reserve meeting this week and also the longer-term concern that a soft landing would mean higher yields," said Chamath De Silva, a senior portfolio manager for Sydney-based BetaShares Holdings. BLOOMBERG



Data have also pointed to growing confidence in Germany after a mild winter and well-filled natural gas storages.. AFP

Context: **Hedge funds** are betting this year's stellar start for Treasuries is too good to last, quietly building up the biggest bearish bet on bond futures on record.

Hedge funds

- **About**: A hedge fund is **a limited partnership of private investors** whose money is managed by professional fund managers who use a wide range of strategies, including leveraging or trading of non-traditional assets, to earn above-average investment returns.
    - Hedge fund investment is **often considered a risky alternative investment choice** and usually requires a high minimum investment or net worth, often targeting wealthy clients.
- **Regulatory requirements**: Hedge funds in India **do not need to be necessarily registered** with the Securities and Exchange Board of India.
- **Different types of hedge funds in the market:**
    - **Domestic hedge funds**: Domestic hedge funds are open to only those investors that are subject to the origin country's taxation.
    - **Offshore hedge funds**: An offshore hedge fund is established outside of your own country, preferably in a low taxation country.
    - **Fund of funds:** Fund of funds is basically mutual funds that invest in other hedge mutual funds rather than the individual underlying securities.

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ASSET UNDER MANAGEMENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

'LIC's exposure to Adani Group is under 1% of AUM'

Presently, there is a situation that's emerging, we are not sure what the factual position is, says LIC MD Raj Kumar, adding 'as we are a large investor, we have the right to ask relevant questions'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Monday said its exposure to the Adani Group was less than 1% of the total assets under management (AUM) at book value.

"With the total AUM at more than ₹41.66 lakh crore as on September 30, 2022, the exposure in the Adani Group, as on date, is 0.975% of the AUM at book value," LIC said in a statement. The insurer finds itself in the eye of a storm after Hindenburg Research recently flagged concerns about the substantial debt of the Adani Group.

"There is a situation that's emerging and we are not sure what is the factual position ... Since we are a large investor, we have the right to ask relevant questions and we will definitely engage with them," LIC MD Raj Kumar told Reuters.

LIC said its total holding under equity and debt in the Adani Group as on December 31 was ₹35,917.31 crore. The total purchase value of equity, bought over the last many years, in the group's firms was ₹30,127 crore.

The market value for the same, as on January 27, was ₹56,142 crore, it said.

(With Reuters inputs)

Seeking clarity

LIC finds itself in the eye of a storm after Hindenburg flagged accounting concerns regarding the Adani Group



- LIC said it had invested ₹36,474.78 crore in the Adani Group as on date
- Total purchase value of equity in Adani companies, bought over many years, was ₹30,127 crore
- Market value for the above equity, as on January 27, stood at ₹56,142 crore, the insurer said

Always Includes

- Discretionary Funds (From Investors Given to an Advisor)

Sometimes Includes

- Bank Deposits
- Mutual Funds
- Cash

Context: Insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Monday said its exposure to the Adani Group was less than 1% of the total assets under management (AUM) at book value.

Asset Under Management (AUM)

- **About**: The **total market value of the investments** that a person or entity handles on behalf of investors.
  - AUM fluctuates daily, **reflecting the flow of money in and out of a particular fund** and the price performance of the assets.
  - Funds with larger AUM tend to be more **easily traded.**
- **Fees and expenses**: A fund's management fees and expenses are often **calculated as a percentage of AUM.**
- **Indicator**: AUM is an indicator of the **size and success of a given fund house**.

PIB JAN 31

e-GRAM SWARAJ PORTAL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - e-Governance)

Ministry of Panchayati Raj organized Manthan: Charting New Paths, an Industry consultation on e-Gram SWARAJ 2.0

Context: To support the '**Minimum Government, Maximum Governance**' vision at the third tier of Government i.e., Panchayats, by the means of technology, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj organized Manthan: Charting New Paths, an Industry consultation on **e-Gram SWARAJ 2.0.**

e-Gram Swaraj Portal

- **About**: The application was launched on the **National Panchayati Raj Day** (April 24, 2020).
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- **Aim**: To bring in better transparency and strengthening of the **e-Governance in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** across the country through decentralized planning, progress reporting and work-based accounting.
- **Significance**: It will assist in enhancing the **credibility of Panchayats** which would induce greater devolution of funds to PRIs.
    - It will help in **establishing a strong financial system** by integrating the PRIASoft and Public Financial Management System (PFMS).
- **Online Payment Module:** The **PRIASoft (Panchayati Raj Institutions Accounting Software)** is the Online Payment Module whereby Gram Panchayats are carrying out online payments to the vendors and service providers.
    - The main objective of introducing such a module is to have a **sound financial management system** in the Panchayats leading to their greater credibility and image.
    - These endeavours are also **congruent to that of Digital India Programme** which is to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

PIB JAN 31

NATIONAL ANTI-LEPROSY DAY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Health)

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya virtually addresses National Anti-Leprosy Day

Context: India is making progress and new leprosy cases are declining year after year. With the whole of government, whole of society support, synergy and cooperation, we can achieve the target of **Leprosy Mukt Bharat** by 2027, three years ahead of the SDG, said by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare on the **National Anti-Leprosy Day.**

- **Hansen's disease (also known as leprosy)** is an infection caused by slow-growing bacteria called **Mycobacterium leprae.**
- It can affect the nerves, skin, eyes, and lining of the nose (nasal mucosa).
- With early diagnosis and treatment, the disease can be cured.

National Anti-Leprosy Day

- **About**: To aid the fight against Leprosy in the country and to create awareness about the disease India is marking **National Anti–Leprosy Day on January 30.**
- **Theme of National Anti–Leprosy Day 2023:** Let us make Leprosy a History; Let us fight against leprosy
- **Leprosy and SDG:** The United Nations aims to eradicate leprosy by 2**030 by achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.** The international organization believes that it can eradicate the disease by following the following goals:
  - **Goal 1**: End Poverty
  - **Goal 3**: Quality and affordable health care for all
  - **Goal 6:** Clean water for all
  - **Goal 10**: Reduce inequality
- **India's plan:** India is to **eliminate Leprosy three years ahead** of UN goals.
  - The Government of India is planning to **eradicate leprosy** by strengthening its **National Leprosy Eradication Programme.**
  - To achieve the target, the allowance to leprosy patients was increased from 8,000 rupees to 12,000 rupees. The allowance shall be used by the patients for their reconstructive surgeries.
- **National Leprosy Eradication Programme:** The program has been highly **successful**. It helped the Indian Government to reduce the leprosy numbers to 0.45 per 10,000 people in 2021-22. In 2014-15, the numbers were 0.69 per ten thousand people.
- **Other Efforts:**
  - ASHA – based Surveillance for Leprosy Suspects
  - Focused Leprosy Campaign
  - National Strategic Plan and Roadmap for Leprosy
  - National Guidelines for AMR in Leprosy

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 1

WHO maintains highest alert over Covid, but sees hope ahead

The World Health Organization said on Monday that Covid-19 continues to constitute a public health emergency of international concern, its highest form of alert. The pandemic was likely in a "transition point" that continues to need careful management to "mitigate the potential negative consequences", the agency added.

It is three years since WHO first declared that Covid represented a global health emergency. More than 6.8 million people have died during the outbreak, which has touched every country on Earth, ravaging communities and economies. However, the advent of vaccines and treatments has changed the pandemic situation considerably since 2020, and WHO chief Tedros A Ghebreyesus has said he hopes to see an end to the emergency this year, particularly if access to the counter-measures can be improved globally "We remain hopeful that in the coming year, the world will transition to a new phase in which we reduce (Covid) hospitalisations and deaths to their lowest possible level," he told a separate WHO meeting on Monday. REUTERS

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Health)

Context: The World Health Organization said that Covid-19 continues to constitute a **public health emergency of international concern**, its highest form of alert.

Public Health Emergency

- **About**: A Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) is the **WHO's highest alert level.**
  - It is part of the **international health regulations(IHR)** which have been the governing framework for global health security since 2007.
- **Definition**: A PHEIC is defined in the **International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005)** as, "an **extraordinary event** which is determined to **constitute a public health risk** to other States through the international spread of disease and to potentially require a coordinated international response". This definition implies a situation that is:
  - Serious, sudden, unusual or unexpected;
  - Carries implications for public health beyond the affected State's national border; and
  - May require immediate international action.
- **Implication**: The definition implies that the situation is **serious, sudden, unusual or unexpected** and carries implications for public health beyond the affected country's border.
- **Condition**: The WHO reserves the designation for only those diseases that need a **coordinated international response** to prevent them from potentially escalating into a pandemic.
- **Previous instances**: The alert has previously been issued for **Ebola**, H1N1 Swine Flu, Poliovirus, **Monkeypox** and Zika Virus.

International Health Regulations (2005)

- **About**: IHR (2005), represents **a binding international legal agreement** involving 196 countries across the globe, including all the Member States of the WHO.
- **Objectives**: Their aim is to help the international community **prevent and respond to acute public health risks** that have the potential to cross borders and threaten people worldwide.

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NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

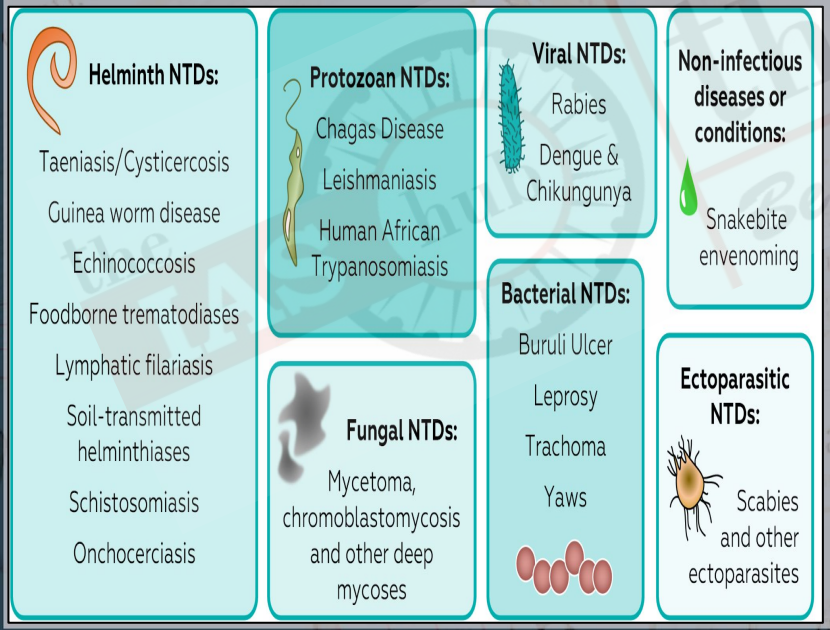
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Neglected Tropical Diseases Day: Poorest countries continue to be most affected, says WHO

UN body highlighted the tremendous effects COVID-19 had on community-based initiatives, access to healthcare facilities and healthcare goods supply chains

By DTE Staff
Published: Monday 30 January 2023





Context: Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) continue to disproportionately impact the most impoverished members of the international community, living in areas with inadequate water safety, sanitation and access to health care, said a new World Health Organization (WHO) report.

Key Points

- NTDs are a **diverse group of 20 conditions** mainly prevalent in tropical areas - caused by various pathogens, including viruses, bacteria, parasites, fungi and toxins.
- Some **16 countries accounted for 80 per cent of the global NTD burden.** Globally, nearly 1.65 billion people were estimated to require treatment for at least one NTD.
- Over 100 scientific recommendations, tools, and other information products were produced as a result of **WHO's NTD efforts in 2021 and 2022** to support the international NTD community, particularly poor countries.
- The global health body launched an **NTD channel** with 36 training courses on 19 different topics for healthcare professionals.

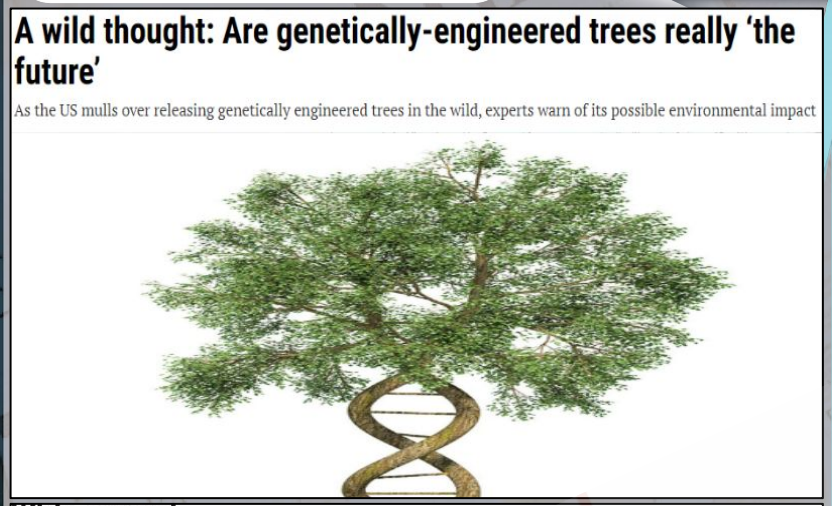
Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)

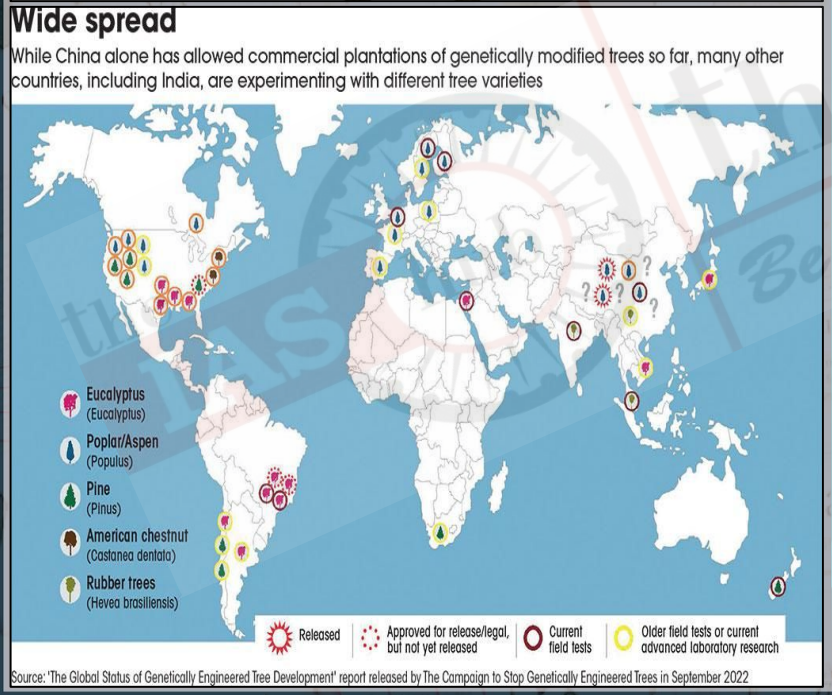
- **About**: It can be defined as **a diverse group of communicable diseases** that prevail in tropical and subtropical conditions.
  - The NTDs are named so because the attention on these diseases has been the least while they **affect the most number of poor people.**
- **Examples**: Ascariasis, Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease, dracunculiasis, hookworm infection, human African trypanosomiasis, Leishmaniasis, leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, trachoma, trichuriasis and Ebola.
- **India & Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD):** According to the World Health Organization report of 2017, **India was able to eliminate Leprosy in 82% of the cities and districts.**
  - The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also mentioned that India has eradicated Infectious **Trachoma** along with the chronic disease Yaws from the country.
  - The **most common NTDs in India** are Lymphatic Filariasis, Visceral Leishmaniasis, Rabies, Leptospirosis, Dengue and Soil-Transmitted Helminthic Infections (STH).
  - As per WHO data, **India ranks number 1** in the number of cases for many major NTDs in the world.
  - While leprosy has ceased to be a **public health concern** in the country, mass treatment coverage has also been achieved for people susceptible to Filaria.

DTE JAN 31

DARLING 58

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)





Context: More than a century after the American chestnut tree became functionally extinct, the United States is weighing whether to allow a **genetically engineered (GE)** version to spread in the wild.

- The country has already developed and field tested the GE version, known as **Darling 58**, and is now awaiting clearances from government agencies to grow them in the wild.

Key Points

- While the US is the only country that is considering the **introduction of GE tree varieties in the wild,** many others have been experimenting with GE tree varieties for commercial plantations.
- In 2002, China allowed the **commercial plantations** of two varieties of GE insect-resistant poplar trees.
- According to **Malaysia-based non-profit World Rainforest Movement,** the country has planted about 1.4 million GE poplar trees on 300-500 hectares.
- While **China is the only country where commercial plantations of GE trees has started**, the US, Germany and Canada are also conducting field tests for GE poplar varieties.
- In 2015, the US and Brazil gave the go-ahead for commercial plantations of GE versions of **loblolly pine and eucalyptus trees**, but the plantations did not take off for various reasons.
- In Brazil, the country's native **eucalyptus** variety was found to be more productive than the two GE varieties, and in the US, the decision triggered massive protests from local communities.
- Even **India has been experimenting with a GE variety** of rubber tree for the past two decades.
    - The Rubber Research Institute of India, a Union government research centre based in Kerala, received clearance for field trials in 2010, but had to abort its plans after the Kerala government did not allow the trials.
    - In June 2021, the research institute under the Rubber Board got the nod from the Assam government to carry out the field trials.

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SCO FILM FESTIVAL 2023

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

Government as an enabler, Future of the Indian animation ecosystem and the scope of film festivals in SCO countries discussed at SCO Film Festival

Context: Fourth day of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Film Festival continued to see enthusiastic participation from various stakeholders of the film industry.

SCO Film Festival 2023

- **About**: The SCO Film Festival is being organized to **mark India's Presidency at SCO**.
- **Organizing Body:** SCO Film Festival 2023 is being organized by **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** through the National Film Development Corporation.
- **Venue**: Film Festival Screenings will take place at two locations in **Mumbai**, 4 auditoriums at the Film Division Complex at Pedder Road and 1 NFDC Theater at Nehru Planetarium Building at Worli.
- **Duration**: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is organizing the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Film Festival from the **27th – 31st of January, 2023, in Mumbai.**
- **Official Language**: The official language of the SCO i.e., **Russian and Chinese** will also be the official language of the SCO Film Festival Mumbai.
    - **Functional Language**: **English** will also be included as the functional language of the festival as it is being hosted in India.
    - **Subtitles**: The films to be screened will be **subtitled in English** for the benefit of the jury and local audience.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- **About**: The SCO is an **economic and security grouping** and has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations. The SCO is a **multilateral organization**, established on 15 June 2001.
- **SCO Member States**: The SCO currently comprises eight Member States: China, **India**, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- **SCO Observer States**: SCO has three Observer States: **Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia.**
- **SCO Dialogue Partners:** SCO has fourteen Dialogue Partners: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Maldives, Myanmar, UAE and Turkey.

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SICHUAN PROVINCE
(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

China's Sichuan to scrap three-child limit

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Southwest China's Sichuan province will lift its three-child birth limit and remove restrictions on single parents as the world's most populous nation faces a looming demographic crisis. China's population shrank last year for the first time in more than six decades, official data released this month showed, and the nation of 1.4 billion has seen birth rates plunge to record lows as its workforce ages.

China ended its strict "one-child policy" - imposed in the 1980s out of fears of overpopulation - in 2016 and began allowing couples to have three children in 2021. But that has failed to reverse the demographic decline.

Falling birth rates

Faced with falling birth rates, authorities in Sichuan on Monday said they would remove the limit on the number of children a family can have and lift a ban on single women registering a birth. The Sichuan Provincial Health Commission said the new rules would take effect on February 15.

Context: Southwest China's Sichuan province will lift its three-childbirth limit and remove restrictions on single parents as the world's most populous nation faces a looming demographic crisis.

Sichuan province

- Sichuan is a **province in Southwest China** occupying most of the Sichuan Basin and the **easternmost part of the Tibetan Plateau** between the Jinsha River on the west, the Daba Mountains in the north and the Yungui Plateau to the south.
- Sichuan's capital city is **Chengdu**.
- Sichuan neighbors **Qinghai to the northwest, Gansu to the north, Shaanxi to the northeast, Chongqing to the east,** Guizhou to the southeast, Yunnan to the south, and the Tibet Autonomous Region to the west.
- Sichuan is the **6th-largest provincial economy of China**, the largest in Western China and the second largest among inland provinces after Henan.
- As of 2021, its nominal GDP was 5,385 billion yuan (US$847.68 billion), ahead of the GDP of Turkey of 815 billion.
- Compared to a country, it would be the **18th-largest economy as well as the 19th most populous as of 2021.**



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