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MK Yadav Sir

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TIMES OF INDIA

Page 14

ESOP AND ESPP

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy

Indian units of foreign cos face GST queries on ESOPs

Authorities See 'Import Of Service' That Attracts 18% GST

Lubna.Kably@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: GST authorities are raising inquiries in cases where shares of a foreign parent or holding company are being allotted to an Indian subsidiary's staff under schemes like employee stock option plan (ESOP) and employee share purchase plan (ESPP).

Indian subsidiaries — largely in the technology sector where ESOP is a popular employee incentive — are facing this issue in GST audit. Separate inquiries are also being raised by authorities. According to tax experts and industry watchers, GST authorities in Karnataka were the first to raise this issue and officials in other states have followed suit.

The stand adopted by GST authorities is that the overseas entity, whose shares are allotted to the employees of the subsidiary company, is not the employer. The obligation of providing shares under the employment contract rests with the Indian subsidiary, but in turn is fulfilled by the overseas entity. Thus, it is an import of service by the Indian entity/subsidiary, which is subject to 18% GST.

Tax experts attached to a few companies said that ESOP is a part of salary and is outside the ambit of GST. Employees who are covered by ESOP plans, however, pay income tax on the same.

"Technically, there is no underlying supply. The recovery of ESOP cost by the overseas entity from the Indian subsidiary is more from the accounting treatment standpoint and the underlying transaction is only that of employer vs employee. There cannot be any supply attributed to such transactions," Pratik Jain, partner at PwC, said.

According to Jain, GST authorities are demanding the tax when such amount is cross-charged from the overseas company to the Indian entity. "Under GST law for import of service from related parties, a tax liability arises when such amount is accrued in the books of accounts of Indian entities or paid, whichever is earlier," he added.

Indian subsidiaries are at various stages of litigation. Some have replied to the show-cause notices, whereas in other cases, the matter has moved forward and appeals have been filed with the GST Commissioner (Appeals).

Jain said that an exception should be created where the ESOP arrangement is not treated an import of service, but a mere reimbursement mechanism. Alternatively, it could be clarified that ESOPs are in nature of securities which are outside the ambit of GST.

All hopes are pinned on the forthcoming GST council meeting.

Experts: ESOP Part Of Pay, Outside GST Ambit

- Employee stock option plan (ESOP) is a **popular incentive**, especially in the tech sector
- Indian subsidiaries **allotting shares of their overseas parent co** are facing inquiries during GST audits

GST Authorities' Stand	What Tax Experts Say
A promise in the nature of incentives to employees is made by, say, 'ABC India'	ESOP is a **part of salary** and is outside the ambit of GST
However, the financial service is fulfilled by an 'ABC International'	Staffers covered by ESOP pay **income tax**
Import of service is done by 'ABC India' to keep up its obligation to employees	An **exception should be created such** that ESOP is not treated as an import of service, but rather a **reimbursement mechanism**, PwC partner Pratik Jain said
Hence this 'financial service' comes under 'HSN code 9971', which is **subject to tax** under reverse charge at the hands of 'ABC India'	ESOPs are in the nature of **securities** which are **outside the ambit of GST**, he added

Context: GST authorities are raising inquiries in cases where shares of a foreign parent or holding company are being allotted to an Indian subsidiary's staff under schemes like **employee stock option plan (ESOP) and employee share purchase plan (ESPP).**

Employee stock ownership plan (ESOP)

- An employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) is a **type of employee benefit plan** which is intended to encourage employees to acquire stocks or ownership in the company.
- Under these plans, the **employer gives certain stocks** of the company to the employee for negligible or less costs which remain in the ESOP trust fund, until the options vests and the employee exercises them or the employee leaves/retires from the company or institution.
- These plans are aimed at **improving the performance of the company** and increasing the value of the shares by involving stockholders, who are also the employees, in the working of the company.
- The ESOPs help in **minimizing problems** related to incentives.

Employee share purchase plan (ESPP)

- An ESPP is a program in which **employees can purchase company stock** at a discounted price.
- Employees contribute through **payroll deductions,** which build until the purchase date.
- Income or loss from the sale of shares **purchased through an ESPP** is generally taxed as a capital gain or loss, though there are holding period requirements.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 4

India, China question EU's unilateral trade measures

Certain 'irritants' preventing from achieving full potential of trade: India

ASIT RANJAN MISHRA
New Delhi, 30 July

India and other developing countries, including China, Indonesia, and South Africa, have questioned unilateral trade policy measures by the European Union (EU), such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and the Deforestation Act at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

During the Trade Policy Review of the EU, India said that while bilateral economic and commercial relations have been on the upswing, certain "irritants" are acting as barriers, preventing both sides from achieving the full potential of their economic partnership.

"We note with concern that during the review period, there has been a general upswing in the unilateral trade policy measures implemented by the EU that have a negative impact on its trading partners, including India," it added.

"The adoption of climate and environment-related policies, particularly CBAM, regulation on deforestation and forest degradation, the proposal on corporate sustainability due diligence, maximum residue levels, and associated derogation power given to EU members, are problematic and are becoming non-tariff barriers to trade for the product categories included."

India said these measures have far-reaching implications for existing trade volumes and future trade potential.

"The WTO compatibility of these measures is also an open question and requires deeper discussions among the WTO members to ensure that these trade measures are compatible with the WTO rules and the multilateral trading system," it added.

China said it is "regrettable" to see the measures taken by the EU, such as CBAM, fail to follow the basic principles under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreements, as well as the WTO rules.

"Such measures would discriminate against imported products and restrict market access, especially for those from developing members. The EU Net-Zero Industry Act also limits the market share of net-zero products from third parties, which runs counter to market principles and the basic rules of the multilateral trading system," it added.

Indonesia, in its comments, said the EU's new trade strategy, including CBAM and the Deforestation Act, will generate "unnecessary" barriers to trade, particularly for non-EU and direct competitors with EU products such as coffee, rubber, processed wood, and palm oil. "This policy, we believe, will impact small and medium enterprises as well," it added.

South Africa said the EU's recent trade policy direction has "significant" implications for trading partners and their ability to access the EU market.

"This also raises the need to reflect on how we can promote multilateral cooperation and collaboration on issues of the global commons, whether unilateral and protectionist trade practices and policies are a solution, and what the implications are for WTO rules," it said.

The New Delhi-based think tank Global Trade Research Initiative has estimated that the CBAM was expected to pose a challenge for India's metal industry because as much as 27 per cent of India's iron, steel, and aluminium exports, worth $8.2 billion, went to the EU in calendar year 2022.

In its response, the EU clarified that CBAM is not a trade measure but a climate-oriented environmental policy tool to ensure that we can reach our climate targets.

"It will be applied to imported products in an even-handed, non-discriminatory manner based on their actual emissions. Any effective carbon price paid outside of the EU will be taken into account. It should be noted that the phase-in of CBAM will be gradual. No financial adjustment will be made before 2026. The transitional period starting in October 2023 is designed to give sufficient time for partners to prepare. The EU will provide opportunities for feedback and consultation with our trading partners when designing the implementing rules," it added.

ILLUSTRATION: AJAY MOHANTY

WHAT OTHERS SAY

South Korea: Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)'s regulation should reflect each country's carbon reduction mechanism

Singapore: Many uncertainties potentially caused by the CBAM, green taxation, and green government procurement need to be carefully addressed at the WTO

Russia: CBAM will fundamentally challenge the structure of global goods flows and the state of competition in the worlds' largest markets

Switzerland: CBAM should have as little effect as possible on global trade and not create discrimination between similar products

POLICY MEASURES BY THE EU

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Context: India and other developing countries, including China, Indonesia, and South Africa, have questioned unilateral trade policy measures by the European Union (EU), such as the **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and the Deforestation Act at the World Trade Organization (WTO).**

- During the **Trade Policy Review of the EU**, India said that while bilateral economic and commercial relations have been on the upswing, certain "irritants" are acting as barriers, preventing both sides from achieving the full potential of their economic partnership.

Carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM)

- **About**: It is a mechanism to be **introduced by the European Union (EU)** to put a fair price on the carbon emitted during the production of carbon intensive goods that are entering the EU, and to encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries.
  - The EU plans a **gradual introduction of CBAM from 1st October 2023** and this will translate into a 20-35% tax on selected imports to the EU nations by 1st January 2026.
  - From 1st January 2026, the EU will start **levying the carbon tax** on multiple products exported to the EU.
  - The products included in the **CBAM list** will be expanded over a period of time and by 2034, it will cover all products entering the EU.

EU Deforestation Regulation ("EUDR")

- The **European Union Deforestation-Free Products Regulation** puts the onus on companies registered in EU member states to ensure seven agricultural commodities – cattle, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber, soy, and wood – that they import or export have not been produced on land deforested after December 31, 2020.
- Under the EUDR, **"deforestation-free"** means that the good does not contain, has not been fed with or been made using, relevant commodities that were produced on land not subject to deforestation since 31 December 2020.

INDIA AND SINGAPORE AGREEMENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Energy)

India in Talks to Link Grid with Singapore to Trade in Green Power

Shilpa.Samant
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India and Singapore have fast-tracked plans to connect their power grids through an undersea cable via Andaman & Nicobar, which will allow India to sell renewable energy to Singapore, people in the know said.

An agreement is expected to be signed soon.

"The landed cost of the renewable energy that will be exported through this arrangement to Singapore is projected to be cheaper than their gas-based electricity," one of the sources said, making an economic case for the investment.

Singapore also needs to fulfil its nationally determined contributions (NDC) to the Paris Agreement and taking renewable energy from India will help in achieving that target.

The two countries held discussions on the matter on the sidelines of the G20 Energy Ministerial and Clean Energy Ministerial meetings earlier this month, sources said.

A detailed study will be prepared on further feasibility, but Singapore is keen on the plan, they said.

State-owned Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd is carrying out further studies on the technical aspects of the project.

Singapore had earlier said that since expanding renewable energy for the country is limited by land scarcity and intermittent solar power, it would explore a variety of different options, including regional power grids.

Being isolated from the mainland, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands have unique challenges in terms of power supply. The union territory's cumulative generation capacity is around 109.45 MW in various islands, of which, diesel-based generation is almost 91%, and the rest is hydro and solar.

The arrangement with Singapore will benefit the islands' connectivity as well, especially with renewable energy.

India has also been in talks with Saudi Arabia and the UAE to connect with their power grids to trade renewable energy. This proposal has been in the works along with Oman, where India could look to make a stop, before taking the connectivity further to the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Context: **India and Singapor**e have fast-tracked plans to connect their power grids through an undersea cable via Andaman & Nicobar, which will allow India to sell renewable energy to Singapore.

Key Points

- The landed cost of the renewable energy that will be exported through this arrangement to Singapore is projected to be cheaper than their **gas-based electricity.**
- Singapore also needs to fulfil its **nationally determined contributions (NDC)** to the Paris Agreement and taking renewable energy from India will help in achieving that target.
- The two countries held discussions on the matter on the sidelines of the **G20 Energy Ministerial and Clean Energy Ministerial meetings** earlier this month.
- Being isolated from the mainland, the **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** have unique challenges in terms of power supply.
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- This proposal has been in the works along with **Oman**, where India could look to make a stop, before taking the connectivity further to the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

THE HINDU

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WORLDCOIN PROJECT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)

What is Sam Altman's biometric project?

What is the Worldcoin project? How is ChatGPT-maker OpenAI related to this crypto project? Why has Worldcoin been criticised? What dangers does it pose?

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

On July 24, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman took to Twitter to formally re-introduce Worldcoin, a project of his that was eclipsed by the popularity of ChatGPT. The Worldcoin venture runs on a simple model: allow your eyes to be scanned in order to prove your human uniqueness, and receive some crypto and an ID (called a World ID) in exchange. Worldcoin claims it is building the "world's largest identity and financial public network" open to people worldwide.

What is Worldcoin?

Worldcoin is an initiative to create a digital network in which everyone can claim some kind of stake, and join the digital economy. Using a device called "Orb," Worldcoin volunteers known as 'Orb operators' scan a person's iris pattern to collect their biometric data and help them get a World ID through the World app.

How does Worldcoin work?

The users need to be willing to scan irises and/or get their own irises scanned. Volunteers sign up to be "Orb operators" in their locality and receive basic training and a biometric device with which to scan irises. Orb operators can even rent out the Orb to others to let them scan eyeballs as well. Those who have their irises scanned and collect a World ID can use this to claim the WLD crypto, which they may use for transactions or hold on to the asset in the hope that its price might rise, as it did after launching. However, users can also buy or sell WLD without getting scanned or using the app. In return for signing up more people to the Worldcoin network, Orb operators get WLD, which is a token based on the Ethereum blockchain. Ethereum has a native coin, Ether, which is the second-largest crypto by market capitalisation. However, anyone can create a token which runs on the Ethereum blockchain. WLD is one such cryptocurrency.

Why does Worldcoin scan irises?

In a company blog post, Worldcoin explained that it wanted to include everyone in its network and that using biometric information to avoid duplication was a valid method for this. The company claimed that India had "proven the effectiveness of biometrics" through its Aadhaar system. Worldcoin notes that Aadhaar IDs stopped people from signing up multiple times to benefit

Context: Recently, OpenAI CEO formally introduced **Worldcoin**, a project of his that was eclipsed by the popularity of ChatGPT.

- The Worldcoin venture runs on a simple model: allow your eyes to be scanned in order to prove your human uniqueness, and receive some **crypto and an ID (called a World ID)** in exchange.
- Worldcoin claims it is building the **"world's largest identity and financial public network" open** to people worldwide.

Worldcoin Project

- Worldcoin is an initiative to **create a digital network** in which everyone can claim some kind of stake, and join the digital economy.
- Using a device called "**Orb**," Worldcoin volunteers known as **'Orb operators'** scan a person's iris pattern to collect their biometric data and help them get a World ID through the World app.
- With the app, scanned participants can collect a cryptocurrency called **Worldcoin [WLD]** at regular intervals or make transactions with their World ID where possible.
- This process is called **"proof of personhood"** and makes sure that people do not sign themselves up multiple times in exchange for crypto.

BUSINESS STANDARD Page 7

ROAD ACCIDENT IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Infrastructure)

Context: In 2021, India witnessed a tragic loss of 18 lives every hour due to road accidents, according to the **Minister of Road Transport and Highways.**.

- The **data received from police departments** of all states and Union Territories indicated a total of 153,972 road accident fatalities in 2021, averaging 18 deaths per hour.

Key Points

- According to the 2022 edition of the **International Road Federation´s World Road Statistics**, the number of road accident related deaths per 100,000 population varies between 0 and 39.4.
- For India, it is 9.5.
- The minister attributed road **accidents to various causes**, including speeding, use of mobile phones while driving, drunk driving, driving on the wrong side or lane indiscipline, jumping red lights, failure to use safety devices like helmets and seat belts, vehicle condition, weather and road conditions, and human errors by drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.
- The ministry also informed the House that to address the issue of road safety, it has formulated a **multipronged strategy based on education** and engineering-both of roads and vehicles, enforcement and emergency care.
- At least 130 stretches of national highways (NH) have been identified for development as **Model Safe Roads** under the ministry and 85 project stretches of NH have been identified for development as Model Safe Construction Zone.
- A road safety audit of all highways is now **compulsory at all stages,** including design, construction, operation, and maintenance, conducted by third party auditors or experts.
- Additionally, vehicles are now **required to have airbags** in the front seats and seat belt reminders for the driver and codriver.
- Further, it specifies the use of a **safety harness,** and crash helmet, and restricts speed to 40 kilometres per hour.
- Speeding warnings are also **mandatory in some vehicles.**
- The **vehicle scrappage policy** has been introduced as part of the efforts to reduce fatalities.

CRASH COURSE ON ROAD FATALITIES

ROADS TO NOWHERE AND ITS REASONS

- 18 die every hour in road accidents
- Speeding, mobile phone use, alcohol prime causes

In 2021, India witnessed a tragic loss of 18 lives every hour due to road accidents, according to the Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari. He addressed this issue while responding to a question raised by Mumbai South Member of Parliament (MP) Arvind Ganpat Sawant and Badaun MP Sanghamitra Maurya in the Lok Sabha on July 20. The data received from police departments of all states and Union Territories indicated a total of 153,972 road accident fatalities in 2021, averaging 18 deaths per hour.

While this figure is not the highest globally, it is still not the lowest.

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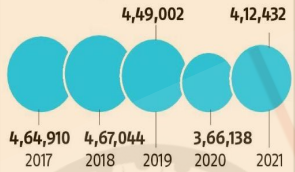
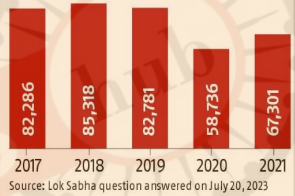
Speeding warnings are also mandatory in some vehicles. The vehicle scrappage policy has been introduced as part of the efforts to reduce fatalities. **ADITI PHADNIS**

ROAD ACCIDENTS IN INDIA

States/UTs (all India)



50 cities with million+ population



Source: Lok Sabha question answered on July 20, 2023

PIB

July 31

GOBARDHAN INITIATIVE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Agriculture)

GOBARdhan Initiative Begins Reaping Good Results & Stimulating Investments In Biogas Sector in India

Context: The **GOBARdhan initiative** of the Union Government which aims to transform "Waste to Wealth" using a "Whole of Government" approach has started stimulating investments and reaping good results by creating a nurturing ecosystem for Compressed Biogas (CBG)/Biogas through a slew of policy enablers and attractive benefits.

- The Unified Registration Portal for GOBARdhan, developed by Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, the nodal coordination department, was launched for streamlining the process of registration of functional/under construction /yet to start Biogas/Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants across the country.

GOBARdhan scheme

- **About**: The **Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBAR-DHAN) scheme** is implemented under the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin-Phase 2, by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Jal Shakti ministry.
  - It was launched in **2018**.
  - In her Budget 2023-24 speech,, Finance Minister had announced the setting up of 500 biogas plants across the country under the **Gobardhan scheme**. Of these, 75 plants were to be set up in urban areas.
  - The scheme aims to augment income of farmers by **converting biodegradable waste into compressed biogas (CBG).**
  - The initiative aims at attracting entrepreneurs for establishing community-based CBG plants in rural areas.
- **Benefits of the scheme:**
  - Helpful for the country as **India is home to the highest cattle population** in the world, close to 300 million in number, with a daily output of 3 million tonnes of dung.
  - Encourage farmers to consider dung and other waste not just as a waste but as a **source of income.**
  - It will be **easier to keep the village clean and sanitized**, livestock health will improve and farm yields will increase.
  - Increase **self-reliance in energy** utilized for cooking and lighting.
  - Provides **a stable fuel supply** in the market for oil companies and accessible credit in the market through government schemes and banks for entrepreneurs.
- **Unified Portal of Gobardhan:** In 2021, it has been launched to ensure **smooth implementation of Biogas schemes/initiatives** and their real time tracking.
  - **Objectives**: Ensure close coordination with various Departments/Ministries for smooth implementation of Biogas schemes/initiatives and its real time tracking.

THE HINDU

Page 1

Scientists, Opposition slam Centre over IIPS Director's suspension

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Members of the Opposition parties and the scientific community have expressed anger and dismay at the suspension of K.S. James, Director and senior Professor at the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), which conducts crucial data collection for the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and other studies.

The Health Ministry on Saturday released a one-page note on his suspension, citing contemplated and pending disciplinary proceedings. Following this, Opposition leaders and scientists highlighted the Centre's "uneasy relationship" with data-based evidence on development.

"It is possible that the Modi government is unhappy with some results of the NHFS-5 and wants to put off NHFS-6 indefinitely," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh told *The Hindu*.

He said the internal committees of the Ministry seemed to have cleared Professor James of any wrongdoing, which indicates that the action against him was taken on "political considerations".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

IIPS
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Governance)

Context: Members of Opposition parties and of the scientific community have expressed their anger and dismay at the Central Government's move in suspending Director and senior Professor at the **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS),** which conducts crucial data collection for the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), among others.

- The Health Ministry cited complaints **regarding irregularities** in recruitment and compliance with the reservation roster at the IIPC.

Key Points

- The Centre was informed through **NFHS-5** that 40% households did not have access to clean cooking fuel (questioning the impact of the Centre's Ujjwala Yojana), and that in rural areas, more than half (57% households) do not have access to LPG or natural gas.
- It also noted that anaemia is on the rise in India. It found that **19% households** lacked toilet facilities and their members defecate in the open.

International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)

- It serves as a regional **Institute for Training and Research in Population Studies** for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) region.
- The Institute was re-designated to its present title in 1985 to facilitate the expansion of its academic activities and was declared as a **'Deemed University'** on 19 August 1985 under **Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956** by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Ministry of Education).
- The Institute is under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,** Government of India.
- The IIPS' mandate is to contribute to the **improvement of the population health outcomes** and their determinants, and the achievement of health equity through programmatic initiatives.
- Besides teaching and research activities, the Institute also provides consultancy to the Government and **Non-Government organizations** and other academic institutions.

DTE

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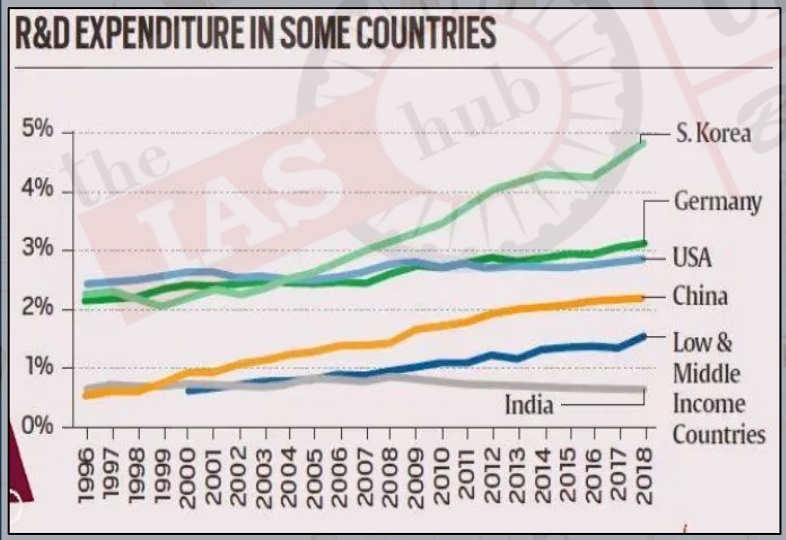
GLOBAL SCIENCE FUNDING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Education)

Global science funding must be redesigned to succeed on SDGs, say experts

Existing science design, funding and practice fail to address complex global issues, they pointed out

By DTE Staff
Published: Friday 28 July 2023



Context: The current science around sustainability science model requires a fundamental revamp to keep up with the pace and intricacy of climate challenges, the report **Flipping the Science Model: A Roadmap to Science Missions** for Sustainability by **Global Commission on Science Missions for Sustainability (GCSMS)** said.

- GCSMS was established in 2021 by the **International Science Council (ISC),** a non-profit.

Key Points

- The commission recommended establishing an ambitious $1 billion per year mission science network of **Regional Sustainability Hubs** across the world to rectify the issue.
- These hubs would address **context-specific and complex issues** - from climate change and malnutrition to water security and clean energy - through a systematic engagement process.
- The hub would deal with **myriad challenges** from problem definition to implementation by engaging key stakeholders of the regions, particularly those in the Global South.
- Though this sort of initiative costs not even one per cent of the **global annual research and development budget**, it would significantly accelerate the progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development.
- To seek integrated and sustainable solutions, **policy and political decisions** at the United Nations must be supported by **science-based evidence.**
- Almost halfway to meeting the 2030 deadline, countries remain far from achieving poverty eradication goals.
- Nearly 1.1 billion of the 6.1 billion people across 110 countries are poor.
- **Global hunger** is back to 2005 levels and nearly 600 million people will remain mired in extreme poverty by 2030.
- To address these challenges, the commission called for a **'mission science' approach** that can bring together the fragmented, compartmentalised scientific knowledge that often fails to connect with society's most immediate needs.

DTE July 31

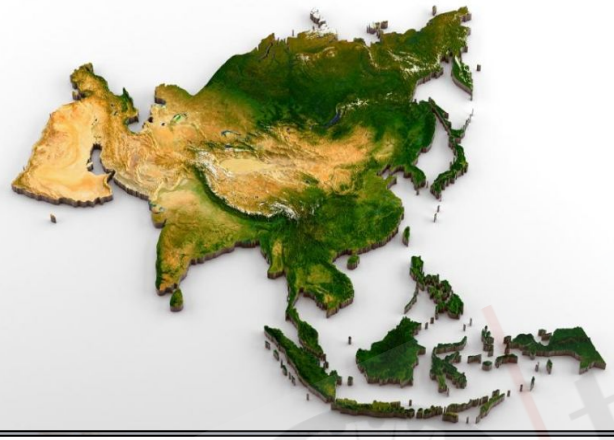
DISASTER-PRONE REGION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Extreme continent: New WMO report paints alarming picture of climate emergency in Asia

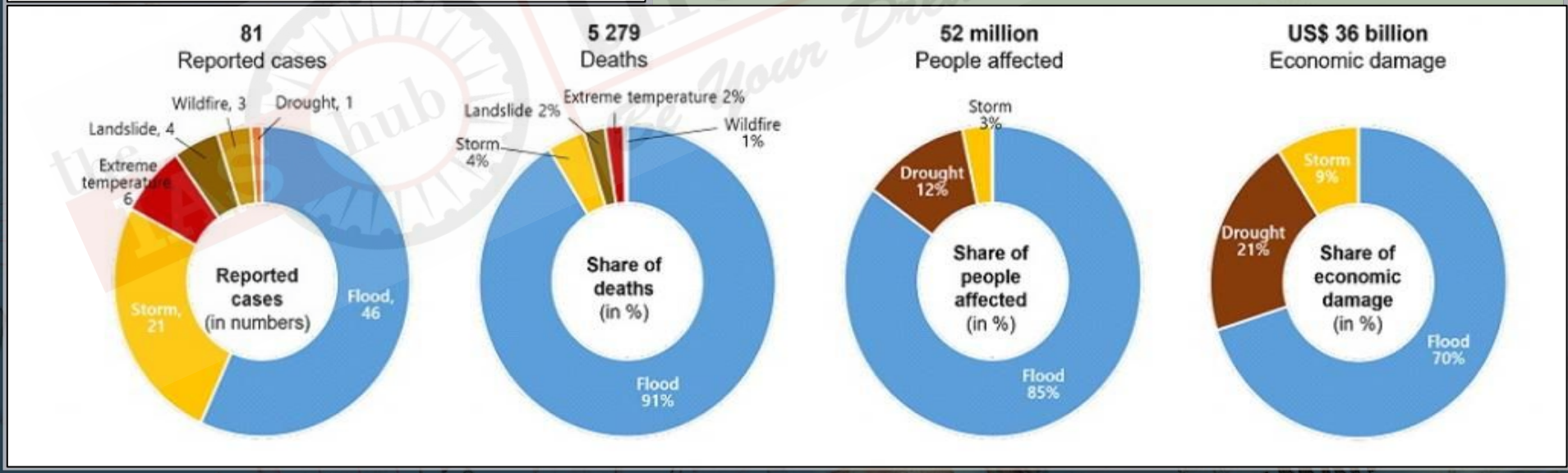
The effects of climate events on Asia in 2022 were much more pronounced, with an increase in the number of fatalities, people affected and economic damage

By Kiran Pandey
Published: Friday 28 July 2023



Context: Asia is the **world's most disaster-prone region** and more than 50 million people were directly affected due to 81 weather-, climate- and water-related disasters in Asia during 2022, according to a new report released by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO).**

- The **number of reported disaster events** in the region decreased in comparison to 2021, when Asia was affected by more than 100 natural hazards.
- The **economic cost of the damage** due to these events has been more than $ 36 billion.
- Asia, the continent with the largest land mass extending to the Arctic, is **warming faster than the global average.**



PIB July 31

ALL INDIA TIGER ESTIMATION -2022

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

All India Tiger Estimation -2022: Release of the detailed Report

Context: On the occasion of the Global Tiger Day celebrated at the Corbett Tiger Reserve, a detailed report of **All India Tiger Estimation -2022** was released by Union MoS.

Key Points

- India currently harbors almost **75% of the world's wild tiger population**.
- With significant changes in the **spatial patterns of tiger occurrence** and an increase in unique tiger sightings from 2461 in 2018 to 3080 in 2022, now more than **3/4th of the tiger population** is found within protected areas.
- The **upper limit of the tiger population** is estimated to be 3925 and the average number is 3682 tigers, reflecting a commendable annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum.
- The **largest tiger population of 785 is in Madhya Pradesh**, followed by Karnataka (563) & Uttarakhand (560), and Maharashtra (444).
- The **tiger abundance within the Tiger Reserve is highest in Corbett** (260), followed by Bandipur (150), Nagarhole (141), Bandhavgarh (135), Dudhwa (135), Mudumalai(114), Kanha (105), Kaziranga (104), Sundarbans (100), Tadoba (97), Sathyamangalam (85), and Pench-MP (77).
- Approximately 35% of the tiger reserves urgently require **enhanced protection measures,** habitat restoration, ungulate augmentation, and subsequent tiger reintroduction.

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