

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) endorsed India's proposal to establish global standards for Millets

- CAC approved India's proposal for **global standards on millets**, covering Finger millet, Barnyard millet, Kodo millet, Proso millet, and Little millet as **group standards**.
 - ⊖ FSSAI has set **group standards** which specify **8 quality parameters** like limits for moisture content, uric acid content, etc. for **15 types of millets**.
- This endorsement coincided with celebration of **International Year of Millets (2023)** which was also proposed by India to **raise awareness about nutritional and health benefits of millets**.
 - ⊖ Millets are **small-grained, annual, warm-weather cereals** belonging to **grass family**. They are **Known as nutri-cereals** as they provide most of nutrients essential for human body's functioning.
- **About CAC**
 - ⊖ Established in 1963, CAC is an **international food standards body** established jointly by WHO and FAO.
 - ⊖ It is headquartered in **Rome** and has **189 members (including India)**.
 - ⊖ Its objective is to **protect consumer's health** and ensure **fair practices in food trade**.
 - ⊖ **Codex Alimentarius, or "Food Code"** is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice adopted by the CAC.
 - ⊖ Codex standards are voluntary.
 - ⊖ **Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)** of WTO recognizes **Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations** for international trade and trade dispute settlement.



WTO's SPS recognises 3 international standard-setting organizations (Known as 'three sisters') Food

safety: CODEX

- ⊖ **Plant health:** International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
- ⊖ **Animal health:** World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

⊖

Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance (IHLEG) released report on climate finance at COP28 of UNFCCC

- **Key findings**
 - ⊖ Amount of global climate finance committed has **more than tripled over last decade** but it is **still too low**. Climate finance is **concentrated in developed economies and China**, and in **mitigation** rather than adaptation. **Debt is predominant form** of climate finance, and most funding stays within country of origin.
 - ⊖ Concerns persist about **lack of transparency** in measuring and delivering climate finance.
- **Recommendations:** An **integrated climate finance framework** is needed (for meeting Paris Agreement goals) involving four sources of finance:
 - ⊖ **Domestic public resources:** Boost **tax revenues**, **eliminate harmful subsidies** and implement **carbon taxation**.
 - ⊖ **Private Finance:** Increase it by **more than 15 times** on current levels for meeting needs of Emerging Markets and Developing Countries.
 - ⊖ **Multilateral Development Banks:** **Triple** the level of **support by 2030**. Access **new sources of capital and guarantees**, secure strong shareholder support, etc.
 - ⊖ **Concessional Finance:** A **fivefold increase** in it is needed by 2030. Developed countries must lead by **tripling the amount of bilateral concessional finance** by 2030.
- IHLEG, formed by COP26 Presidency, is mandated to **develop policy options and recommendations to promote investment for UNFCCC Paris Agreement**.



Related news

UK announced **US\$ 2 billion contribution to Green Climate Fund (GCF)**.

GCF, established under Cancun Agreements in 2010, is **world's largest climate fund**.






It serves as the financial mechanism of the **UNFCCC and Paris Agreement**.

UAE set up **ALTERRA, a \$30 billion fund to invest in clean energy and other climate projects worldwide**.

➤ The International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol), **Headquartered in Lyon (France)** was established in **1923** to help **police work together to make the world a safer place.**

➤ **About Interpol**

- ⊕ **Members:** 196 member countries (including India)
- ⊕ **Organizational structure**
 - ◆ **General assembly** - Supreme governing body meets annually to take decisions related to policy, finances etc.
 - ◆ **General secretariat** - Runs Interpol's day-to-day activities to support members in international policing
 - ◆ **Executive committee:** Elected by the General Assembly has 13 members comprising a president, 3 Vice presidents and 9 delegates from 4 regions.
 - ◆ **National central bureaus (NCB):** A Country's focal point for all INTERPOL activities e.g., NCB in India is Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ⊕ **Key functions**
 - ◆ **Supports national efforts in combating crimes across four global areas:** terrorism; cybercrime; organized crime; and financial crime and anti-corruption.
 - ◆ **Manages police databases** with information on crimes and criminals (like names, fingerprints, stolen passports, etc.)
 - » Provides **real-time accessibility to such data** to member countries through **I-24/7** communications system.
 - ◆ **Issues colour-coded notices of various hues** (refer to the infographics).
 - ◆ **Offers Training to officials.**

	To seek the location and arrest of persons wanted
	For locating missing persons
	To seek information on unidentified bodies.
	For information on modus operandi, used by criminals.
	Individuals who are target of UNSC Sanctions Committees

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) released 'Global Drought Snapshot 2023'

- UNCCD is one of three Conventions originated at the 1992 **Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.**
 - ⊕ The other two address climate change (UNFCCC) and biodiversity (UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)).
- **Key findings:**
 - ⊕ **1.84 billion people are drought stricken** and 85% of them live in low or middle-income countries.
 - ⊕ Compared to men, **women and children are over 14 times more likely** to be killed by climate fuelled disasters.
 - ⊕ **Anthropogenic drivers** are causing more **frequent and extreme droughts.**
 - » It includes land use change, greenhouse gas emissions, increased water consumption

➤ In report, UNCCD highlights need of **global drought resilience** to achieve **triple dividends**, which includes-

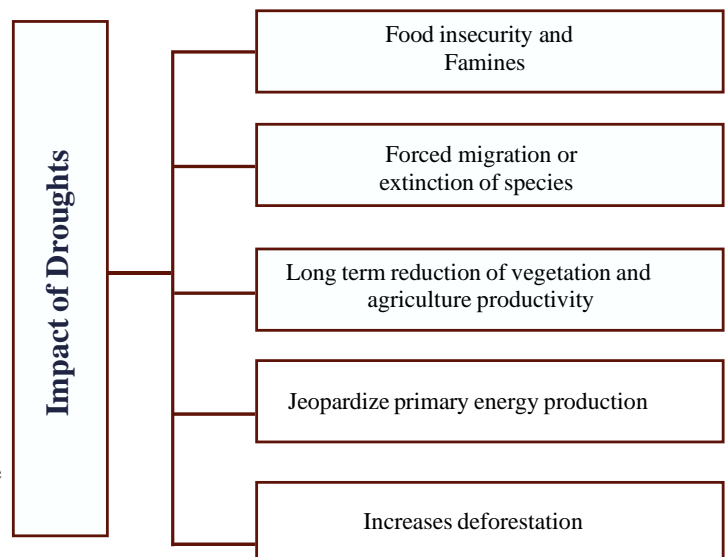
- ⊕ Avoiding future losses,
- ⊕ Reducing risk, increasing productivity and driving innovation
- ⊕ **Fostering multiple social** and environmental co-benefits.

➤ **Recommendations for Global Drought Resilience:**

- ⊕ **Land restoration** and sustainable management.
- ⊕ **Nature-positive farming techniques** such as drought-resistant crops, efficient irrigation methods and soil conservation.
- ⊕ **Disaster preparedness** and early warning systems.
- ⊕ **Consolidate regional initiatives** to facilitate knowledge transfers, resource mobilization etc.

➤ **Initiative Taken**

- ⊕ **Global:** UNCCD's Drought Initiative, International Drought Resilience Alliance, etc.
- ⊕ **India:** National Mission for Green India, National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).



Initiative (GGCI) at COP 28 (UAE) of UNFCCC

- GGCI will serve as the **international platform** for **dialogue, collaboration**, and the **exchange of innovative environmental programs and instruments**.
 - ⊕ Also referred as **Global Platform for Nature's Ecological Transformation**.
 - ⊕ GGCI is aligned with the principles of the **Green Credit program (GCP)**.
- It aims to replace **conventional approach** of focusing on **carbon emissions** to **recognizing and incentivizing** a broader spectrum of efforts.
- **Key Purposes:**
 - ⊕ **Science:** Sharing of global technical know-how and experiences.
 - ⊕ **Policy:** Shaping green credit policy instruments.
 - ⊕ **Supporting implementation (practice component):** Creating one common value chain.
 - ◆ It will connect **communities, self-help groups, etc.** with **companies/corporates** and other stakeholders who can participate in the program through one marketplace.
- **Key Benefits:** Knowledge Sharing, innovative solutions, collective actions, and participating countries can assert global leadership in providing environmental solutions.
- **GCP** is an initiative that **rewards and incentivizes eco-friendly activities** (such as tree plantation) by offering **Green Credits**, encouraging **environmental sustainability and conservation**.
 - ⊕ Notified through **Green Credit Rules, 2023** by the **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change** under the **Environment Protection Act, 1986**.
 - ⊕ **Governance Structure:** Steering Committee, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) (Administrator), and Technical Committees.
- At the event, India also proposed to **host the 2028** climate change conference (COP33).

₹2.23 lakh crore Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to push Self-reliance in Defence industry

- DAC is the **highest decision-making body** in the **Defence Ministry** for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions.
 - ⊕ It is chaired by Minister of Defence.
- Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) is approved for procurement of **Light Combat Helicopter (LCH)**, **Anti-tank Munitions**, etc.
 - ⊕ AoN is the first step toward procurement of any military equipment and hardware under **defence acquisition norm** under **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP), 2020**.
- **Need of Self-reliance in Defence Sector (Defence Indigenization) Autonomy:**
 - ⊕ Decision making autonomy in Geo-political issues. **Reducing dependence on import:** World's largest arms importer between 2018-22 (as per SIPRI Report).
 - ◆ **Also, it Aims US\$5 billion in defence exports by 2025. Prevention from disruption of supply-chain:** Like Russia-Ukraine conflict.
 - ⊕ **Other:** Tackling neighbours like China, supporting friendly nations etc.
- **Challenges:**
 - ⊕ **Lack of private participation:** In total production (2022-23), there share is around 19 % only.
 - ⊕ **Lack of Innovation and Research & Development (R&D):** Dependent on Western nation for **cutting-edge technologies**.
 - ⊕ **Limited budget allocations for defence:** Spending on Defence R&D less than 1%; far less than US, China.
 - ⊕ **Other:** **Lack of cohesion between stakeholders**, etc.

Initiatives taken

- **DAP, 2020** gives priority to procurement from domestic sources
- **Positive Indigenisation List**
- **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)**
- **Corporatization** of Ordnance factories.
- **Defence Industrial Corridors**
- **System for Advanced Manufacturing Assessment and Ranking (SAMAR) certificates.**

Also in News

Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT 2.0)

- **Prime Minister** with his Sweden counterpart **co-launched** the Phase-II of the LeadIT
 - ⊕ LeadIT was launched by **India and Sweden** at the UN Climate Action Summit in **2019**.
 - ⊕ It brings together **countries, companies and industry experts** to **achieve net-zero** emissions from heavy industries by 2050.
- **LeadIT 2.0 will focus**
 - ⊕ Inclusive and Just Industry Transition
 - ⊕ Low Carbon Technology Development and Transfer
 - ⊕ Emerging Economy Technology Transfer
- **India and Sweden** also launched the **Industry Transition Platform**.
 - ⊕ It will connect **governments, industries, technology providers, researchers and think tanks** of the two countries.

Anthrobots

- Scientists have developed anthrobots.
- **About Anthrobots:**
 - ⊕ These are **tiny robots made of human cells** that are able to **repair damaged neural tissue**.
 - ⊕ They can be created from **adult human cells without genetic modifications**.
 - ⊕ They can be fused together to form a **superbot**.
 - ⊕ This development represents a **significant advancement in regenerative medicine**.
 - ◆ **Regenerative medicine** is the process of replacing or regenerating human cells, tissues or organs to restore or establish normal function.
- Anthrobots are different from **xenobots**, which are derived from embryonic stem cells of frog.



Kaziranga National Park (KNP)

- Recently, one-horned rhinoceros was killed in KNP of Assam.
- About KNP**
 - It is part of **Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspots**.
 - It lies between **Brahmaputra River** (North) and the **Karbi Anglong hills** (South).
 - In **1985**, declared as a **World Heritage Site by UNESCO**.
 - Inhabited by **world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses**.
 - vegetation:** It ranges from alluvial inundated grasslands to tropical semi-evergreen forests.
 - Fauna:** Hoolock Gibbon, Tiger, Leopard, Indian Elephant, Sloth Bear, etc.



Allied Climate Partners (ACP)

- At **COP 28**, **ACP** and **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** have joined hands to generate \$ 11 billion for climate investment in developing countries.
 - IFC** is the **private sector arm of the World Bank** that encourages private investment in developing countries.
- About ACP:**
 - It is a philanthropic investment organization.
 - It aims to increase the number of **climate-related projects** and businesses in emerging economies.
 - ACP's initial **focus regions** are **Southeast Asia, the Caribbean and Central America, Africa, and India**.
 - It has established **Southeast Asia Clean Energy Facility (SEACEF)**.



Selam contact-binary satellite

- International Astronomical Union has named the **satellite of asteroid Dinkinesh** as "Selam (meaning peace)".
 - Discovered by NASA's Lucy mission, Selam is the **first contact-binary satellite** ever observed.
 - Contact binary system is where **two space bodies gently rest against each other**.
- Launched in 2021, Lucy is the **first space mission to explore Jupiter Trojan asteroids**.
 - The Trojans are a group of small bodies (remnants of early solar system) that **orbit the Sun in two swarms along the orbit of Jupiter**.



Hydrogen for Heritage scheme

- India proposed to invite global firms to manufacture Hydrogen trains for implementing the **Hydrogen for heritage scheme**.
- About Scheme:**
 - It was announced in the **Union Budget 2023-24**.
 - Under it, Indian Railways (IR) has envisaged to run **35 Hydrogen trains**.
 - Also, IR will **undertake retro fitment of Hydrogen Fuel cell** on existing Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU).
 - Hydrogen fuel cells use the **chemical energy of hydrogen** to produce electricity.
 - Benefits:** It will promote **green transportation technology** that will support zero carbon emission goals.



Powers of Governor

- In **Premchandran Keezhoth case**, Supreme Court (SC) held that **Governor**, when serving as University Chancellor, was **not bound by advice of council of ministers** while exercising his **discretionary powers**.
 - Article 163** of Constitution refers to discretionary powers of Governor.
- In another Case, SC also observed that **Governor cannot refer bills to President** after the Assembly has **re-enacted the Bills** following the Governor's declaration of withholding the assent.
 - Under Article 200**, Governor can either give assent to a Bill, withhold assent, **return the bill for reconsideration** or reserve it for consideration of the President.



Jellyfish

- New jellyfish species **found off Japan's coast** with 240 tentacles named **Santjordia pagesi**.
 - Its most distinctive feature is a bright red, cross-shaped stomach.
- About Jellyfish**
 - Jellyfish are **invertebrates** (animals with no backbones) and belong to Phylum Cnidaria
 - They also **lack brains, hearts, and eyes**.
 - They are **not detritivores** and feed on fish, shrimp, crabs, etc. They are made up of a **smooth, bag-like body and tentacles** armed with tiny, stinging cells.
 - They could be **transparent or colourful**
 - They can be **bioluminescent**.

Places in News



Venezuela (Capital: Caracas)

- India set to resume import of oil from **Venezuela** after 3 years as US sanctions on Caracas ease.
- Political features**
 - Location:** Located at the **northern end of South America**.
 - Not a landlocked country and opens into **Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean** to the north.
 - Political boundaries:** Bounded by **Guyana, Brazil, and Colombia**.
- Geographical features:**
 - Major Mountain:** **Andes Mountains**
 - Rivers:** Rio Negro, Orinoco River
 - Major lake:** Lake Maracaibo (largest lake in South America)
 - Highest Point:** Bolívar Peak

