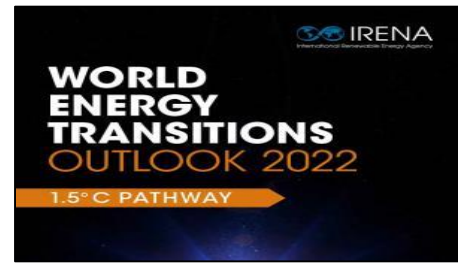


World Energy Transitions : Outlook 2023



❖ Context

- Recently, **World Energy Transitions: Outlook 2023** report by the **International Renewable Energy Agency** released in Berlin.

❖ Key Highlights of the Report

- The global energy transition is still “off-track” and **falls short of the 1.5 degrees Celsius pathway.**
- The aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and the ripple effects of the Ukraine crisis have **further compounded the challenges facing the transition.**
- Current pledges and plans fall well short of IRENA’s 1.5°C pathway and will result in an **emissions gap of 16 gigatonnes (Gt) in 2050.**
- **Deployment is also limited** to certain parts of the world, the report pointed out.
 - **China, the European Union and the United States** accounted for two-thirds of all additions last year, leaving developing nations further behind.
- In 2022, 85% of global renewable energy investment benefitted **less than 50 per cent of the world’s population.**
- **Africa** accounted for only **1 per cent of additional capacity in 2022.**
 - Regions home to about 120 developing and emerging markets continue to receive comparatively little investment.
- **Recommendations :**
 - To keep 1.5°C alive, deployment levels must grow from some **3,000 gigawatt (GW) today to over 10,000 GW in 2030**, an average of 1,000 GW annually.
 - **Public sector intervention** is required to channel investments towards countries more equitably.
 - A fundamental shift in the support to developing nations must put more focus on energy access and climate adaptation.

- IRENA’s preview outlines **three priority pillars of the energy transition-**
 - The physical infrastructure, policy and regulatory enablers and well-skilled workforce.
- **Global investment in energy transition technologies** reached a new record of \$1.3 trillion in 2022.
 - However, **yearly investments** must more than quadruple to over \$5 trillion to stay on the 1.5 degrees Celsius pathway.
- By 2030, **cumulative investments** must amount to USD 44 trillion, with transition technologies representing 80 per cent of the total, or \$35 trillion.
- ❖ **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)**
 - It is an intergovernmental organization mandated to facilitate cooperation, advance knowledge, and promote the adoption and sustainable use of renewable energy.
 - It was **founded in 2009** and its statute entered into force on 8 July 2010.
 - Headquartered in Masdar City, **Abu Dhabi.**
 - IRENA is an **official United Nations observer.**
 - 165 states and the European Union are members of IRENA.
 - In 2009, **India became the 77th Founding Member** of this organization.

Al Aqsa Mosque

❖ Context

- The recent Israeli police raid on Jerusalem's Al- Aqsa mosque has triggered a furious reaction from Palestinians across the occupied West Bank and the wider Arab and Muslim world.



❖ Al Aqsa Mosque

- The Al-Aqsa lies **at the heart of Jerusalem’s Old City** on a hill known to Jews as Har ha-Bayit, or Temple Mount, and to Muslims internationally as al-Haram al-Sharif, or The Noble Sanctuary.
- **Muslims regard the site as the third holiest in Islam,** after Mecca and Medina.
- Al-Aqsa is the name given to the whole compound and is home to two Muslim holy places:
 - The Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, also known as the Qibli Mosque, which was **built in the 8th century AD.**
- The compound overlooks the Western Wall, a sacred place of prayer for Jews, for whom the Temple Mount is their most sacred site.

- **Jews believe biblical King Solomon built the first temple there 3,000 years ago.**
- A second temple was razed by the Romans in AD 70.
- **Israel captured the site in the 1967 Middle East war** and annexed it with the rest of East Jerusalem and adjoining parts of the West Bank in a move not recognized internationally.
- Jordan, whose ruling Hashemite family has custodianship of the Muslim and Christian sites, appoints members of the Waqf institution which oversees the site.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**), has **classified the Old City of Jerusalem and its walls as a World Heritage Site.**

Face to Face Centres



Lokpal

❖ Context

- Around **68% corruption complaints against public functionaries** that landed with the Lokpal of India were “**disposed off**” without any action in the past four years.
- Only three complaints were fully investigated.



❖ About Lokpal and Lokayukta

- The central **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013** was notified on **January 1, 2014**.
- This act aims to **establish an anti-corruption ombudsman** called Lokpal at the Central level and Lokayukta at the state level.
- **Composition and Tenure :**
 - Lokpal is a **multi-member body** that consists of one chairperson and a maximum of 8 members (1+8).
 - Members are **appointed by the President** on the recommendation of a **selection committee** headed by the Prime Minister.
 - Chairperson of the Lokpal should be either the **former Chief Justice of India or the former Judge of Supreme Court or an eminent person** with impeccable integrity and outstanding ability, having special knowledge and expertise of minimum 25 years in the matters relating to anti-corruption policy, public administration, vigilance, finance including insurance and banking, law and management.
 - **50% will be judicial members and minimum 50% of the Members will be from SC/ ST/ OBC/ Minorities and women.**
 - The judicial member of the Lokpal is either a **former Judge of the Supreme Court or a former Chief Justice of a HIGH COURT.**
 - The term of office for Lokpal Chairman and Members is **5 years or till the age of 70 years.**

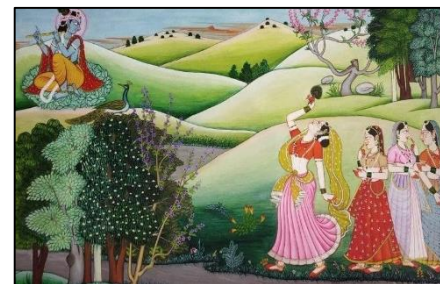
• Applicability:

- The Lokpal will **cover all categories of public servants, including the Prime Minister.** But the **armed forces do not come** under the ambit of Lokpal.
- The Act does not allow a Lokpal inquiry if the allegation against the PM relates to **international relations, external and internal security, public order, atomic energy and space.**
- The Act also incorporates provisions for **attachment and confiscation of property acquired by corrupt means,** even while the prosecution is pending.
- The States will have to institute **Lokayukta within one year** of the commencement of the Act.
- The Act also includes the **Lokpal's own members under the definition of “public servant**
- **Lokayuktas** are the state equivalents of the central Lokpal and are provided for under Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.
- Regarding lokayuktas, the **act creates a mere framework,** leaving it to the states to decide the specifics.
- Following the Act and the intervention of the Supreme Court, **most states now have lokayukta.**

Basholi Paintings

❖ Context

- Recently, the world famous '**Basohli Painting**' - popular for its **miniature art style from Kathua district** has obtained the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag following approval by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Jammu.



❖ Key Highlights

- This is the **first time in the history of GI registration** that Jammu region got GI tag for handicrafts.
- **The products which have obtained GI tagging included -**
 - Basholi Pashmina Woolen Products (Kathua), Chikri Wood Craft (Rajouri), Bhaderwah Rajma (Doda), Mushkbudji Rice (Anantnag), Kaladi (Udhampur), Sulai Honey (Ramban), Anardana (Ramban), Ladakh Wood Carving (Ladakh).
- **About Basholi Paintings :**
 - Basholi painting is a **reputed school of miniature paintings** known for its **vivid, evocative colors, bold lines, and deep-set facial patterns.**

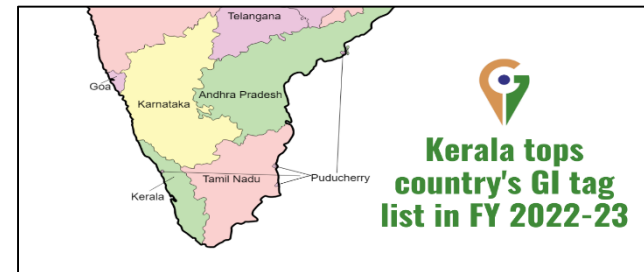
- The Basholi Paintings have peculiar characteristics, they have **perfect geometrical patterns, bright colors and glossy enamel.**
- This style of painting saw its **best years in the 17-18th century.**
- Basholi paintings are considered as the **first school of Pahari paintings,** many of which have evolved into the much more detailed and widespread style of **Kangra painting school.**
- The Basholi paintings had obscure beginnings, although **Raja Bhupat Pal is widely credited as its founder.**
- **Themes:** The portraits of **local rulers, Radha-Krishna, and Madhava-Malati love themes** and themes from the Bhagavata Purana.
- These are **painted on paper, cloth, or wood** using natural pigments and dyes.

Face to Face Centres

Kerala Tops GI Tag List in FY 2022-23

❖ Context:

- Kerala has topped the list of States in the country with the most number of products securing the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in FY23, as per the data shared by the GI Registry recently.



❖ Key Highlights:

- Six products from Kerala, including :
 - Attappady Aattukombu Avara (beans),
 - Attappady Thuvvara (red gram),
 - Onattukara Ellu (sesame),
 - Kanthloor Vattavada Veluthuli (garlic),
 - and Kodungallur Pottuvellari (snap melon), has been selected for the GI recognition tag.
- Mithila Makhana (aquatic fox nut) from Bihar and Alibag white onion from Maharashtra were also selected for GI recognition, along with Tandur Redgram from Telangana, Ladakh Raktsey Karpo Apricot from Ladakh, and Gamosa handicrafts from Assam.

- In FY22, Uttar Pradesh topped the list with seven GI tags, followed by Uttarakhand at six. Handcrafted products from both states were selected for the recognition, such as **Chunar Glaze Pottery, Banaras Zardozi, Mirzapur Pital Bartan, and Rataul Mango from Uttar Pradesh, and Aipan, Munsyari Razma, and Uttarakhand handcraft Ringal Craft from Uttarakhand.**
- Tamil Nadu's famous Kanniyakumari Clove, wood carving from Kallakurichi, Karuppur Kalamkari paintings, and Narsinghapettai Nagaswaram were also chosen for recognition between 2021-22.
- ❖ **About GI Tag:**
 - GI recognition relates to a particular location and product manufactured from that region.
 - Between April 2022 and March 2023, 12 products were selected for recognition, with two of them from overseas, **Brandy De Jerez** from Spain and **Provolone Valpadana** from Italy.
 - The GI tag as it signifies the product's authenticity, origin, and quality.
 - The GI recognition also **helps promote regional economic growth** and empowers local communities.

The India Justice Report (IJR) 2022

❖ context:

- The recent India Justice Report (IJR) 2022 has highlighted the endemic issue of judge vacancies in Indian courts.

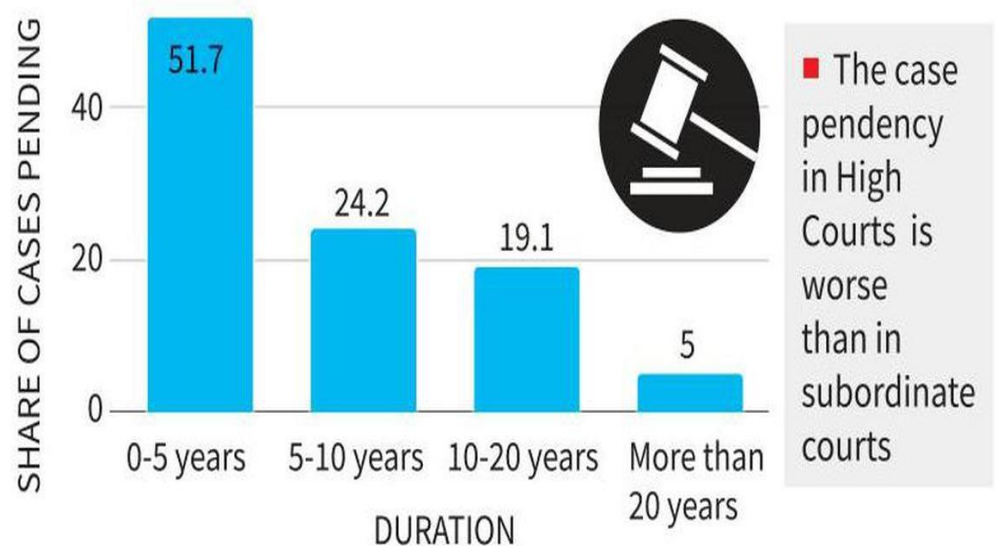


❖ Key Highlights:

- As of December 2022, the High Courts were functioning with only **778 judges** out of a sanctioned strength of 1,108 judges, and the subordinate courts were functioning with **19,288 judges against** a sanctioned strength of 24,631 judges.
- The report also revealed that the caseload per judge has **steadily increased**, with the number of cases a judge has to deal with increasing in 22 states and union territories **between 2018 and 2022.**
- The **case clearance rate (CCR)**, which is a common metric used to determine the rate at which cases are disposed of, has improved in High Courts but declined in lower courts.
- The report found that **High Courts** are increasingly clearing more cases annually than subordinate courts. While nationally, the number of court halls appears sufficient for the number of actual judges, **the report warns that space will become a problem** if all the sanctioned posts are filled.
- In August 2022, there were 21,014 court halls for the 24,631 judges' posts sanctioned at the time, a shortfall of **14.7%.**
- The report also revealed that in **Delhi, West Bengal, and Uttarakhand**, there were no court halls for the serving judges.

Piling up

The chart shows the share of cases pending in High Courts across various years. The share of cases pending for more than five years, across 25 High Courts in the country was 48.3%.



❖ Key Concerns:

- This shortage of judges has led to an increase in pending cases per judge, with the number of **cases pending per judge** rising in most states over the last five years, despite the sanctioned strength remaining the same.

Face to Face Centres

News in Between the Lines

Nathu La



❖ Context

- A massive avalanche swept away a group of tourists in east Sikkim's Nathu La area near the China border recently.

❖ About Nathu La:

- Nathu La is a mountain pass located in the Himalayas on the border between India and China. The pass is situated at an altitude of **4,310 meters above sea level** and connects the Indian state of Sikkim with the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China.

❖ Avalanches:

- An avalanche is a rapid flow of snow down a slope, typically triggered by either natural causes or human activity. Avalanches can be deadly and destructive, and they occur in many mountainous areas around the world.
- Avalanches are caused by a combination of factors, including slope angle, snowpack stability, temperature, and precipitation. When the snowpack becomes **unstable, either due to heavy snowfall, warm temperatures, or other factors**, the weight of the snow can cause it to break loose and slide down the slope.

Idu Mishmi



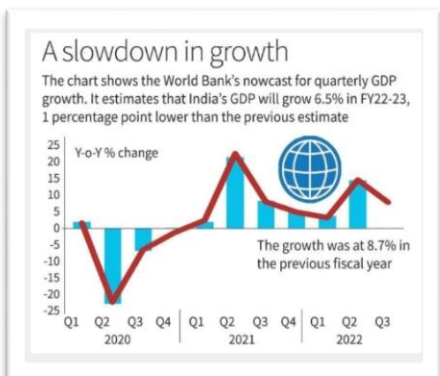
❖ Context

- Recently, the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** chief said that the **Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh** would soon be notified as a tiger reserve. The announcement has caused disquiet among the area's Idu Mishmi people, who feel that a tiger reserve would "hinder their access" to the forest.

❖ Idu Mishmi

- The Idu Mishmi is a sub-tribe of the larger Mishmi group (**the other two Mishmi groups are Digaru and Miju**) in Arunachal Pradesh and neighboring Tibet.
- Known for their **weaving and craftsmanship skills**, the Idu Mishmis primarily live in Mishmi Hills, bordering Tibet.
- The tribe is **estimated to comprise around 12,000 people** (as per census 2011), and their language (also called Idu Mishmi) is **considered endangered by UNESCO**.
- Animals such as the **hoolock gibbons and tigers have deep cultural relations with the Idu Mishmi**.
 - Tigers are especially important to the Idu Mishmis - according to Idu mythology, they were born to the same mother, and thus, **tigers are their "elder brothers"**.
- While hunting has traditionally been a way of life, the Idu Mishmis also follow a **strict belief system of myths and taboos - 'iyu-ena'** - that restrict them from hunting many animals, including a complete prohibition on killing tigers.

South Asia Economic Focus Report



❖ Context

- The World Bank has recently released its South Asia Economic Focus report, which forecasts India's economic growth rate to be **6.3% for the current fiscal year**, which ends on March 31, 2024.

❖ Key Highlights:

- This forecast is a downgrade of 0.7% points from its previous forecast in October 2021.
- **Factors** : High borrowing costs and slower income growth have resulted in **weaker consumption, and the government's tightening fiscal expenditure** has contributed to this downgrade. The services sector and the construction sector are the fastest-growing industries in India, according to the report.
- Investment growth remained strong, and business confidence was high.
- The World Bank has highlighted that India has fared better than the rest of the South Asian region, but there are **still two major concerns**.
 - Firstly, the female labour participation rate has **dropped to below 20%**, and
 - Secondly, the informal sector has neither become **more productive** nor shrunk.

❖ Some Suggestions:

- There is still a huge structural agenda in India to make growth more **inclusive to increase participation**. Private investment from abroad needs to be increased, especially in the services sector. The report suggests that ultimately, it is about increasing more opportunities in the **labour market**.

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