



7 July, 2023

World Investment Report

Context: The World Investment Report 2023 has recently been released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Key Highlights

- The key points this year is 'Investing in sustainable energy for all'.
- India and ASEAN experienced notable growth in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), with increases of 10% and 5% respectively.
- Developing countries received higher FDI inflows compared to developed economies.
- China, the second-largest recipient of FDI globally, observed a 5% increase in inflows.
- The Gulf region witnessed a decline in FDI, although there was a significant increase in project announcements.
- Many smaller developing countries saw stagnant FDI inflows, and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) experienced a decline in FDI.
- Developed countries have predominantly attracted international investment in renewable energy.
- The investment gap for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has grown to over \$4 trillion per year, up from \$2.5 trillion in 2015.
- Energy, water, and transport infrastructure face the most substantial gaps in investment.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- UNCTAD is a permanent inter-governmental organization that was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.
- It is primarily responsible for addressing development issues, with a particular focus on international trade.
- Formulating policies in various areas such as trade, technology, finance, aid, and transport is a key priority for UNCTAD.
- The Conference typically convenes once every four years.
- The second UNCTAD Conference took place in New Delhi, India, in 1968.
- UNCTAD has 195-member countries.
- Its headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- UNCTAD publishes several reports:
 - Trade and Development Report
 - The Least Developed Countries Report
 - Commodities and Development Report.

International Conference on Women In Physics (ICWIP)

Context: India will host the eighth edition of the International Conference on Women In Physics (ICWIP) from July 10-14, marking its first time organizing the event.

Key features

- ICWIP is an event of IUPAP addressing gender imbalance in physics education and research.
- First held in 2002 in France.
- ICWIP 2023 is organized by the Gender in Physics Working Group of the Indian Physics Association and TIFR, Mumbai.
- Focus: Promoting quality and equity in science and math education from primary to college levels.
- Organizing ICWIP 2023 in India supports India's commitment to diversity and inclusion in physics and science.

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The International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP)

- The IUPAP is the only international physics organization managed and operated by the physics community itself.
- Its members are drawn from physics communities in various countries and regions worldwide.
- Established in 1922 in Brussels, the first General Assembly was held in Paris in 1923.
- Currently, the IUPAP has 60 country members.
- The aims of the IUPAP are:
 - Promote worldwide development of physics for sustainable growth.
 - Foster research and education in physics globally.
 - Highlight physics' role in addressing global challenges and driving innovation.
 - Enhance diversity and inclusion in physics.
 - Support the participation and recognition of women and underrepresented groups.
 - Advocate for equal opportunities and gender equity in physics.
 - Facilitate international cooperation and sponsor physics conferences.
 - Foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among physicists worldwide.
 - Sponsor international physics meetings to promote scientific exchange.

Indian Government's Initiatives for Promoting Science Among Women

- **STEM Initiatives:** Government programs providing women access to STEM education and professional development.
- **WISE-KIRAN:** Promoting women's participation in S&T through gender-enabling programs.
- **Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM:** Encouraging women scientists to undertake collaborative research in the USA.
- **CURIE Programme:** Developing research infrastructure in women's institutions to enhance participation in S&T.
- **Vigyan Jyoti:** Inspiring girl students to pursue science and technology education and careers.
- **GATI:** Transforming institutions for a more gender-sensitive approach in S&T.
- **SERB-POWER:** Addressing gender disparity in science and engineering through research support.
- **BioCARE:** Enhancing women scientists' participation in biotechnology research.
- **WEST:** Promoting women's role in engineering, science, and technology fields.

Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty (BBNJ)

Context: The United Nations has approved the High Seas Treaty, which is the world's first international treaty designed to safeguard and regulate various activities like fishing, mining, and oil extraction in international waters.

Important features:

- Establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and increased funding for marine conservation.
- Regulations for mining activities at sea, including rules for sharing marine genetic resources.
- Requirements for environmental assessments of deep-sea activities like mining.
- Commitment of financial support from wealthier nations, such as the EU pledging nearly 820 million euros.
- Guidelines for measuring the environmental impacts of high-sea activities and obliging countries to report on these impacts to the UN.
- Creation of a new group, the Conference of Parties, responsible for overseeing and enforcing compliance with the treaty's terms.
- The BBNJ Treaty is a legally binding international agreement focusing on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- It covers the high seas, which are beyond exclusive economic zones and national waters, encompassing nearly half of the Earth's surface.

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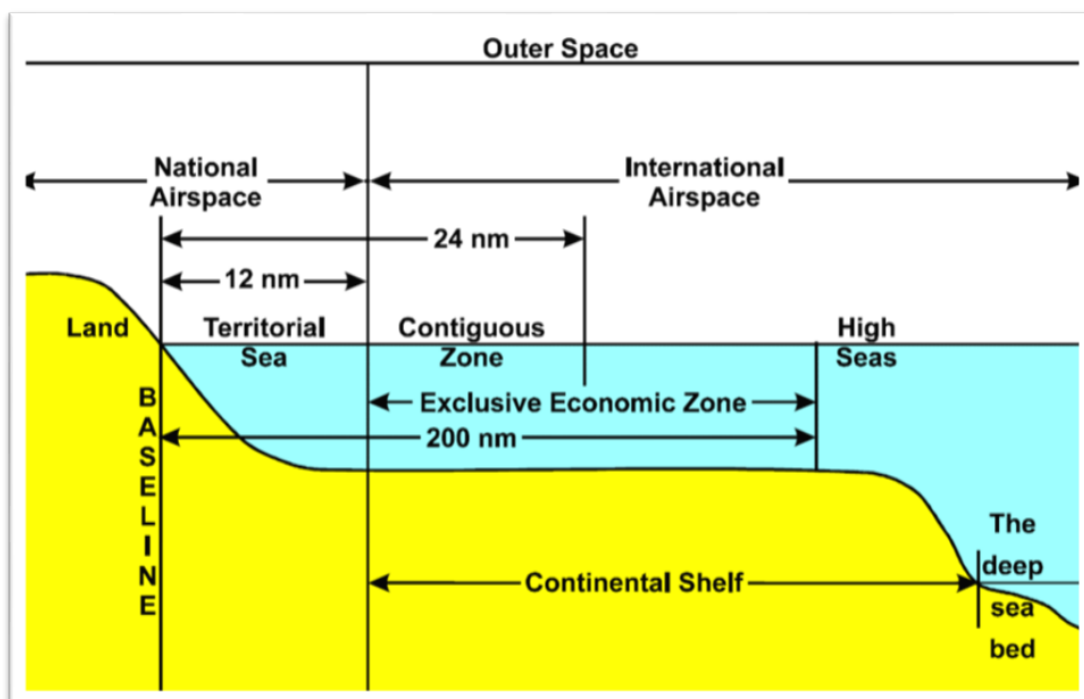


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- **Need:**
 - Currently, only 1% of these areas are protected, leading to significant depletion of big fish populations and the destruction of 50% of coral reefs, largely due to overfishing.
- **Negotiations:**
 - The High Ambition Coalition on BBNJ launched negotiations at the One Ocean Summit in February 2022, aiming for a comprehensive and ambitious outcome.
- **Previous agreement:**
 - The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), adopted in 1982, was the previous effort to extend governance into the ocean, adding regulations to oceans within 12 nautical miles of countries' coastlines.
- **What are the high seas?**
 - The high seas refer to the ocean areas beyond any national jurisdiction, not falling under the sovereignty of any specific country.
 - They are considered a global common, belonging to all humankind.
- **India's involvement:**
 - India has actively participated in the negotiations for the BBNJ Treaty under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS):

- Adopted and signed in 1982, it became effective in 1994.
- Replaced the four Geneva Conventions of 1958, addressing territorial sea, contiguous zone, continental shelf, high seas, fishing, and conservation of living resources.
- Serves as the legal framework for marine and maritime activities.
- Also known as the Law of the Sea.
- Divides marine areas into five main zones: Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and the High Seas.
- UNCLOS establishes a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces.
- Provides different legal status to different maritime zones.



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NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Migraine

Recently, the WHO has highlighted migraine as the second most prevalent neurological disorder globally, causing significant disability compared to other neurological conditions.

What is Migraine?

Migraine is a disabling headache disorder characterized by recurrent moderate to severe headaches, typically unilateral and pulsating, accompanied by photophobia, phonophobia and nausea/vomiting.

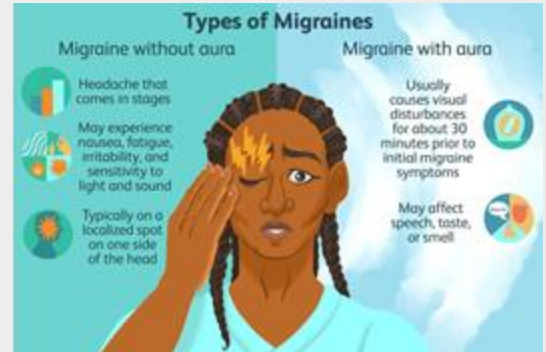
Treatment:

Monoclonal antibodies against Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide (CGRP) and trigger point injections are also used to mitigate inflammation and alleviate pain associated with migraines.

Gender and Familial Association: Migraines are more common in women and can run in families.

Diagnosis:

Diagnosis involves clinical evaluation and ruling out other possible causes using imaging techniques like CT scans or MRIs.



World Swahili Language Day

Today, the world celebrates World Swahili Language Day, recognizing Swahili as one of the top 10 most spoken languages globally.

Language Significance:

- Over 200 million people in Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, Uganda and along the East coast of Africa use Swahili as their primary language.
- Swahili is also an official language of the African Union.

Recognition: The United Nations designated July 7th as World Swahili Language Day to celebrate the importance and cultural significance of Swahili.

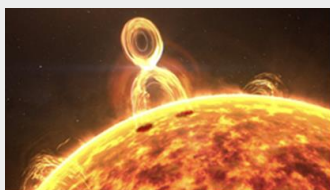
Akashvani's Swahili Language Service:

- Akashvani's External Services Division has been broadcasting a daily Swahili language service since May 1943.
- The service aims to reach out to the African community worldwide.

Appreciation:

- Anisa Kapufi Mbega, the High Commissioner of Tanzania in India, praised India's public broadcaster for its role in promoting Swahili language and fostering solidarity with the African community.
- She expressed confidence that positive outcomes would emerge for global welfare during India's G20 Presidency.

Solar Flares



A recent X-class solar flare emitted by the Sun disrupted radio communications over parts of the United States and the Pacific Ocean.

Solar Flares:

Solar flares are tremendous explosions on the Sun caused by the sudden release of energy stored in twisted magnetic fields above sunspots.

Effects and Risks:

- Solar flares can disrupt radio communications, power grids and navigation signals.
- They pose risks to astronauts and spacecraft. These flares heat substances to millions of degrees Celsius, generating radiation across the electromagnetic spectrum.

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Flare Classification:

- Solar flares are categorized into different classes based on their X-ray brightness: A, B, C, M and X.
- X-class flares are large events causing global radio blackouts and radiation storms.
- M-class flares result in brief radio blackouts, mainly in polar regions.

Impact on Earth:

- Solar flares release energy particles that affect the ionosphere and radio communications on Earth.
- Coronal mass ejections (CMEs) associated with solar flares can cause geomagnetic storms and disruptions in Earth's magnetic field.

Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary

Recently, plans have been set in motion to relocate African cheetahs from Kuno National Park to the Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary.

The Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary:

Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary is a protected wildlife sanctuary located on the northern border of Mandsaur and Nimach districts in the state of Madhya Pradesh, India.

Area: The sanctuary covers an area of approximately 368 square kilometers.

Wildlife: The sanctuary is home to various species of animals, including antelopes, deer, wild boars, langurs, leopards and migratory birds.

Flora: The sanctuary boasts a variety of flora including dry deciduous forests, grasslands and aquatic vegetation along the Chambal River.

Chambal River: The sanctuary is situated along the Chambal River, which adds to its ecological significance.

Reasons for Cheetah Relocation:

The relocation is part of the Cheetah Action Plan. The decision to relocate cheetahs follows the deaths of several cheetahs including injuries suffered by a male cheetah named Agni during a skirmish between two groups at Kuno National Park.

Cheetah Enclosure: A 60-70 square kilometer enclosure is being prepared at the Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary to accommodate the relocated cheetahs.

Place in News

The Orkney Islands

Recently, the Orkney Islands, located off the coast of Scotland, have considered separating from the UK and becoming a self-governing territory of Norway.

Geographic Location: Archipelago situated approximately 10 miles off the north coast of Scotland.

Geographic features: The islands exhibit diverse landscapes, including coastlines, cliffs, beaches and rolling hills.

Island Characteristics:

- Consists of 70 individual islands with 20 being inhabited.
- Known for scenic landscapes, rugged coastlines and diverse wildlife.

Historical and Archaeological Importance:

- Inhabited since prehistoric times.

Home to Neolithic sites including stone circles, chambered tombs and the UNESCO World Heritage site "Heart of Neolithic Orkney."



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