

# DAILY PT POINTERS

14<sup>th</sup> December, 2023



The Hindu: GS3-Environment (Page 1)

## COP-28 calls for 'transition away' from fossil fuels

Negotiators adopt resolution titled Dubai Consensus; the text reflects a compromise between developed and developing countries on emissions

Jacob Koshy  
NEW DELHI

Nations took a small but decisive step towards ridding the world of fossil fuels, after negotiators in Dubai on Wednesday adopted a resolution, called the Dubai Consensus.

The standout clause in the 21-page text is the one that "calls on Parties [to be] ...Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science". However, this language of "transitioning" has been diluted from earlier drafts that had called for an actual "phase-out" of all fossil fuels.

Creating a path to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 is humanity's best shot at keeping global temperatures from rising beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, according to scientific assessments by the Intergovernmental Panel

### Eye on emissions

Global Stocktake was the first COP where countries were expected to account for actions undertaken to fulfil obligations under the Paris Agreement — of keeping emissions on track to below 2°C and endeavour to 1.5°C



• The stocktake found that steps taken by Parties were inadequate and even in the most optimistic case, would see a 5% reduction in emissions by 2030 (over

2019 levels) when it should have been 43%.

• Greenhouse gas emissions have to be reduced sharply and this will require tackling the main culprit: fossil fuels

• Countries must implement systems to adapt to present and future effects of climate change by 2030

on Climate Change (IPCC). This implies cutting emissions to 43% of 2019 levels by 2030 and 60% by 2035, an onerous ask given that just seven years remain for the first target, while emissions keep rising, year on year.

The consensus text reflects a compromise between developed and developing countries on what the world should do to stem greenhouse gas emis-

sions while also ensuring that countries contribute proportionally, on the basis of their historic responsibility for the climate crisis. These climate talks are annual affairs but move forward incrementally because the UN rules say an agreement can result only if all 198 signatories agree on every line in the text.

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- The UAE Consensus is a comprehensive document that calls for a transition away from fossil fuels to achieve net zero by 2050.
- It encourages Parties to submit economy-wide Nationally Determined Contributions and sets specific targets, including tripling renewables and doubling energy efficiency by 2030.
- Under the COP28 Presidency's 'Action Agenda,' bold and decisive steps were taken across four pillars of the Paris Agreement: fast-tracking a just energy transition, fixing climate finance, focusing on people and nature, and fostering inclusivity in climate action.
- The COP28 process mobilized an unprecedented \$85 billion in funding for climate action.



## The Hindu: GS2-Health (Page 12)

### Road fatalities rise in India, despite global drop: WHO

Road traffic deaths fell by 5% worldwide between 2010 and 2021 but rose 15% in India, says report; crashes were the leading cause of deaths among children and youth aged five to 29 years

Jagriti Chandra  
NEW DELHI

Road traffic deaths fell by 5% to 1.19 million annually worldwide between 2010 and 2021, with 108 United Nations member countries reporting a drop, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a report. India, however, registered a 15% increase in fatalities.

The total number of road traffic fatalities in India went up to 1.54 lakh in 2021 from 1.34 lakh in 2010, the 'Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023' said.

Ten countries succeeded in reducing road traffic deaths by over 50%. These are Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Denmark, Japan, Lithuania, Norway, Russian Federation, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela. Thirty-five countries made notable progress, reducing road traffic deaths by 30% to 50%.

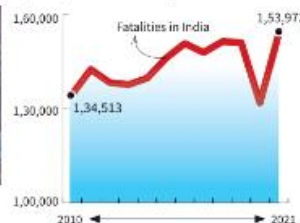
As of 2019, road crashes were the leading cause of deaths among children

#### Deadlier roads

Road traffic-related fatalities in India reached a 11-year high in 2021 after a dip in 2020



**Killer roads:** Charred wreckage of a car after an accident in Bareilly, PN



and youth aged five to 29 years, and were the 12th leading cause of deaths when all ages are considered. Two-thirds of deaths occurred among people of a working age.

In the past decade, a 5% reduction in absolute numbers of road traffic fatalities was accompanied with a growth in the global population by nearly 14 billion, or roughly 13%.

This translates into the road fatality rate declining from 18 per 1 lakh people in 2010 to 15 per 1 lakh in 2021, which represents a

16% decline in the road traffic death rate since 2010.

#### Vehicle growth

The report also noted that during the same period, the global motor vehicle fleet grew 160%. Therefore, annual fatality rates per 1 lakh vehicles fell from 79 deaths to 47 deaths, which is a 41% reduction.

The report shows that 28% of global road traffic deaths occurred in the WHO's South-East Asia Region, 25% in the Western Pacific Region, 19% in the

African Region, 12% in the Region of the Americas, 11% in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, and 5% in the European Region.

"Nine in 10 deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, and fatalities in these countries are disproportionately higher when set against the number of vehicles and roads they have. The risk of death is three times higher in low-income than high-income countries, yet low-income countries have just 1% of the world's motor vehicles," the report said.

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The Hindu: GS2-Polity and Governance (Page 12)

## SC holds arbitration deals in unstamped contracts to be valid

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

A seven-judge Constitution Bench on Wednesday held that arbitration agreements embedded in unstamped or insufficiently-stamped substantive commercial contracts or instruments are not invalid, unenforceable or even non-existent.

The Supreme Court judgment gives a significant shot in the arm for India's ambition to become an international arbitration hub to quickly resolve commercial disputes. Earlier, arbitrations on such disputes had struck a roadblock owing to non-payment of the required stamp duty for or insufficient stamping of contracts by the parties.

"Arbitration aims to provide speedy, efficient, and binding resolution of disputes that have arisen between the parties in regard

held that "non-stamping or inadequate stamping is a curable defect".

The Chief Justice clarified that arbitration agreements would not be non-existent, unenforceable, or invalid if the underlying contract was not stamped. The judge said non-payment or insufficient stamping of contracts under the Stamp Act would not affect arbitration proceedings under the Arbitration Act. Such contracts were only inadmissible in evidence under the Stamp Act.

### 'Self-contained code'

"Arbitration Act is a self-contained code... Accordingly, matters governed by the Arbitration Act such as the arbitration agreement, appointment of arbitrators and competence of arbitral tribunal to rule on its jurisdiction have to be assessed in the manner specified under the law... Therefore, provisions of other statutes

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# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu : GSII-Governance / GS3-S&T (Page 12)

## 'New Delhi Declaration' on artificial intelligence adopted

**Aroon Deep**  
NEW DELHI

Following several hours of deliberations, representatives from 28 countries and the European Union adopted the "New Delhi Declaration" of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI, pronounced g-pay). India is hosting the summit, and will chair the GPAI grouping in 2024. The ministerial declaration affirms the countries' commitment to "principles for responsible stewardship of trustworthy AI ... rooted in democratic values and human rights ... and promoting trustworthy, responsible, sustainable and human-centred use of AI".

GPAI is a grouping of countries in North and South America, Europe, and East Asia, which strive to work towards "trustworthy development, deployment, and use of AI". Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the first day of the summit.

**The declaration affirms the countries' commitment to 'principles for responsible stewardship of trustworthy AI'**

The previous summit was held in Japan, which is the outgoing chair of GPAI. "We have also agreed that GPAI, in keeping with values of partner-countries, will be an inclusive movement, including countries in the Global South and make benefits of AI available to all the people of the world," Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar told reporters as the government announced the release of the declaration.

The previous summit had taken place before the popularity of ChatGPT and the buzz around AI grew exponentially, Mr. Chandrasekhar said. The Delhi Declaration commits coun-

tries to work on mitigating "concerns around misinformation and disinformation, unemployment, lack of transparency and fairness, protection of intellectual property and personal data, and threats to human rights and democratic values".

**'Best possible solutions'**  
"We will discuss how to pool OECD resources to harness the ability to come up with the best possible solutions for the deployment and governance of AI for the good of our people," Jean-Noël Barrot, France's Minister for Digital Transition and Telecommunications, told reporters.

"We especially think GPAI should be more inclusive so that we encourage more developing countries to join," Hiroshi Yoshida, Japan's Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination (International Affairs) in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, said.

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### • Do you know ?

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The Hindu: Economy–GS 3 (Page 13)

## RoDTEP: U.S., EU slap countervailing duties on four Indian goods

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The U.S. and the European Union have now imposed countervailing duties (CVD) on four Indian products, as a retaliation against the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme introduced for out-bound shipments in January 2021.

The products for which countervailing investigations have been conducted and a final determination of CVD has been made include paper file folders, common alloy aluminum sheet and forged steel fluid end blocks by the U.S. and certain graphite electrode

**The products for which CVD has been determined include paper file folders and graphite electrodes**

systems by the European Commission (EC), Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said on Wednesday.

“The Indian government and the affected exporters have strongly defended the subsidy allegation against various programs & schemes of the government, both at Central & State level, in their written and oral responses during the conduct of investigations,” she noted.

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- **Countervailing Duties (CVDs)** are tariffs levied on imported goods to offset subsidies made to producers of these goods in the exporting country.
  - The World Trade Organization (WTO) permits the imposition of countervailing duty by its member countries
- **RoDTEP** is based on the globally accepted principle that taxes and duties should not be exported, and taxes and levies borne on the exported products should be either exempted or remitted to exporters. The RoDTEP scheme rebates/refunds the embedded Central, State and local duties/taxes to the exporters that were so far not being rebated/refunded. The scheme is being implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and the rebate is issued as a transferable electronic scrip by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) in an end to end IT environment.



The Hindu: IR-GS2 / Economy–GS 3 (Page 14)

## IMF clears second tranche of \$337 mn for Sri Lanka

**Meera Srinivasan**

COLOMBO

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cleared the second tranche – about \$337 million – of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to Sri Lanka, based on the debt treatment plan drawn up by the crisis-battered island nation and its bilateral creditors.

“Sri Lanka’s agreements-in-principle with the Official Creditors Committee and Export-Import Bank of China on debt treatments are consistent with the EFF targets. They

are an important milestone putting Sri Lanka’s debt on the path towards sustainability,” a senior official in Washington told a virtual press conference late on Tuesday.

With the second tranche coming in, Sri Lanka has received about \$670 million of the total \$3 billion it hopes to receive from the Fund, to recover from last year’s historic financial crash that put citizens through acute shortages and long power cuts, while pushing the country into bankruptcy.

In November, Sri Lanka

reached an “agreement-in-principle” with India and the Paris Club group of creditors, including Japan, to recast its debt owed to them. China, too, is said to have agreed to treat its Sri Lanka loans on comparable terms. The government is yet to make the terms of either agreement public.

“A swift completion and signature of the Memoranda of Understanding with the official creditors is important,” the IMF said.

While China, India and Japan are Sri Lanka’s top three bilateral creditors, the largest chunk of the is-

land’s debt, accumulated through International Sovereign Bonds (ISBs), is owed to private creditors. Emphasising the need for “timely implementation” of the agreements with the official lenders, the Fund also urged Sri Lanka to reach a resolution with external private creditors “on comparable terms”.

**Commendable progress** Meanwhile, the Fund noted that Sri Lanka has made “commendable progress” towards restoring debt sustainability, raising revenue, rebuilding reserves buff-

ers, reducing inflation, and safeguarding financial stability. “Strong commitment to improving governance and protecting the poor and vulnerable remains critical,” the IMF said. In addition to higher, mostly across-the-board indirect taxes, citizens are struggling to keep up with spiralling utility bills, especially electricity, following a three-fold increase in rates. The Ceylon Electricity Board recently said it disconnected some five lakh power connections owing to non-payment of bills by consumers.

- The Extended Fund Facility (EFF) provides financial assistance to countries facing serious medium-term balance of payments problems because of structural weaknesses that require time to address.
- To help countries implement medium-term structural reforms, the EFF offers longer program engagement and a longer repayment period.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Environment-GS 3 (Page 18)

## The limitations of CCS and CDR and their grip on future climate

The emission scenarios that the IPCC has assessed that have more than a 50% chance of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees C, with no or limited overshoot, assume the world can sequester 5 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2040. This is more than India currently emits every year



- Carbon capture and storage (CCS) and carbon-dioxide removal (CDR) technologies.
  - CCS refers to technologies that can capture carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) at a source of emissions before it is released into the atmosphere. These sources include the fossil fuel industry (where coal, oil and gas are combusted to generate power) and industrial processes like steel and cement production.
  - CDR takes the forms of both natural means like afforestation or reforestation and technologies like direct air capture, where machines mimic trees by absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> from their surroundings and storing it underground.
  - There are also more complex CDR technologies like enhanced rock weathering, where rocks are broken down chemically; the resulting rock particles can remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. Other technologies like bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) capture and store CO<sub>2</sub> from burning biomass, like wood.



Indian Express: GS 2-Governance (Page 14)

## How two men leapt into Lok Sabha, what the House security rules say

The visitors' gallery in Parliament is accessible only on an MP's recommendation. According to the Rules, the MP must know the visitor personally, and 'take full responsibility for him/her'

MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

THE TWO individuals who breached Lok Sabha security on Wednesday entered the visitors' gallery on passes issued to them on the request of the BJP MP from Mysore, Prathap Simha.

Under the Rules, security staff in the visitors' gallery must maintain vigil and ensure visitors do not indulge in misbehaviour or conduct unbecoming of the dignity of the House.

### What the Rules say

The admission, withdrawal, and removal of visitors — or "strangers" — is governed by Rules 386, 387, and 387A of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

"The admission of strangers...to those portions of the House which are not reserved for the exclusive use of members shall be regulated in accordance with orders made by the Speaker," the Rules say. "The Speaker...may order the withdrawal of strangers from any part of the House," and authorised officers "shall remove from the precincts...or take into custody any stranger...who, having been admitted into any portion of the precincts...misconducts or wilfully infringes the regulations...".

### Through three checks, to the visitors' gallery

The 2 men who reached the Lower House would have had to get through 3 rounds of security

#### SECURITY LAYER 1 FOR VISITORS

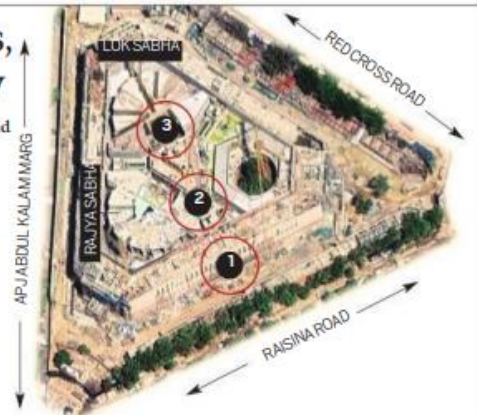
AT THE PERIPHERY OF THE COMPLEX

Visitors can't take anything inside the complex. Phones, notebooks, etc are to be deposited here, and only the ID and visitors' pass can be taken. Visitors are frisked and put through metal detectors.

#### LAYER 2

200-250 STEPS AWAY

Visitors are frisked again, their pass is checked; only then do security personnel let them through.



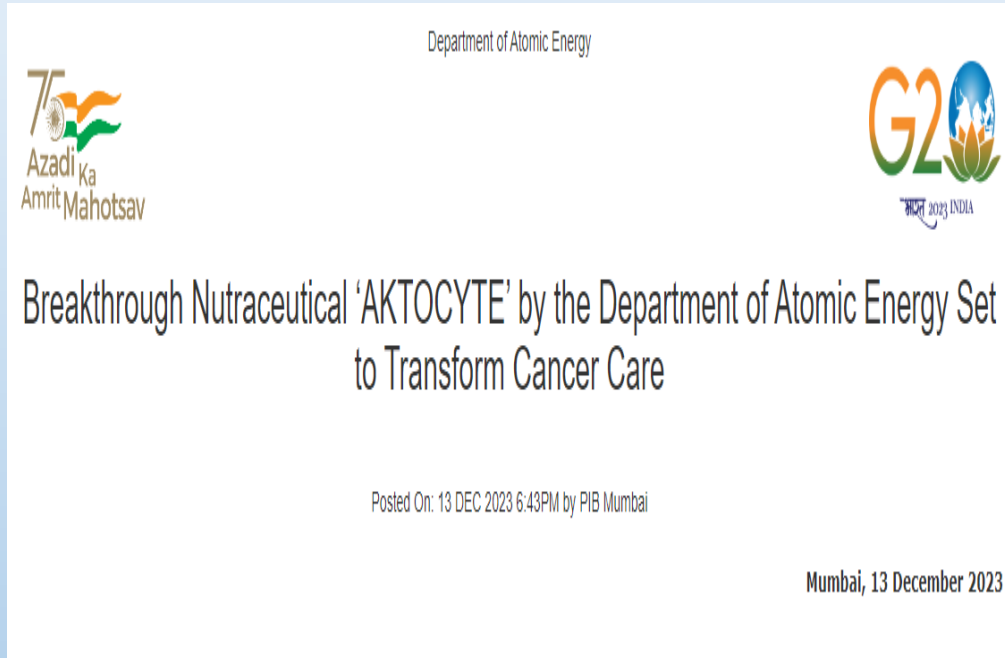
#### LAYER 3

JUST OUTSIDE THE LOK SABHA CHAMBER  
Another round of scanning to ensure even small things like a pen cap or tissue paper are removed — essentially nothing that can be thrown, is allowed inside.

- Admission of visitors (strangers in Parliament parlance) are governed by Rule 386 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.
- The Rule, which deals with "admission, withdrawal and removal of strangers", states that "the admission of strangers during the sittings of the House to those portions of the House which are not reserved for the exclusive use of members shall be regulated in accordance with orders made by the Speaker."

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: S&T-GSIII



- The AKTOCYTE tablets have shown remarkable results, particularly in pelvic cancer patients suffering from radiotherapy-induced Cystitis (Blood in urine). Patients treated with AKTOCYTE tablets demonstrated an extraordinary recovery, eliminating the need for surgical removal of the urinary bladder.
- AKTOCYTE has received approval from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), operating under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB: Governance-GSII

### Pro Bono Legal Service Programme

Posted On: 13 DEC 2023 3:21PM by PIB Delhi

*Under ProBono Legal Services programme, 10629 advocates have directly registered across 24 State Bar Councils, 89 Law schools have joined the Pro Bono Club Scheme and 22 High Courts have constituted Pro Bono Panels in which 1354 advocates have enrolled, as on 30th November, 2023.*

**NYAYA BANDHU**  
Pro Bono Legal Services Programme  
Reaching New Heights

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- **89 Law schools** from **30 State/ UTs** across India joined the Pro Bono Club Scheme
- **22 High Courts** constituted Pro Bono Panels in which **1354 advocates** have enrolled

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- Pro Bono Legal services programme was launched in April 2017.
- An initiative of the Department of Justice, the programme is aimed at fulfilling the Department's critical mandate of enhancing "access to justice" for marginalised sections of the society and the State's constitutional obligation of providing "free legal aid" for all.