

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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## MARINE HEAT WAVES

### Context

- Researchers found that **Marine Heat Waves (MHWs)** deep in oceans may be significantly under-reported and caused by ocean currents.
  - ♦ However, they are also **being impacted by global warming.**

### About

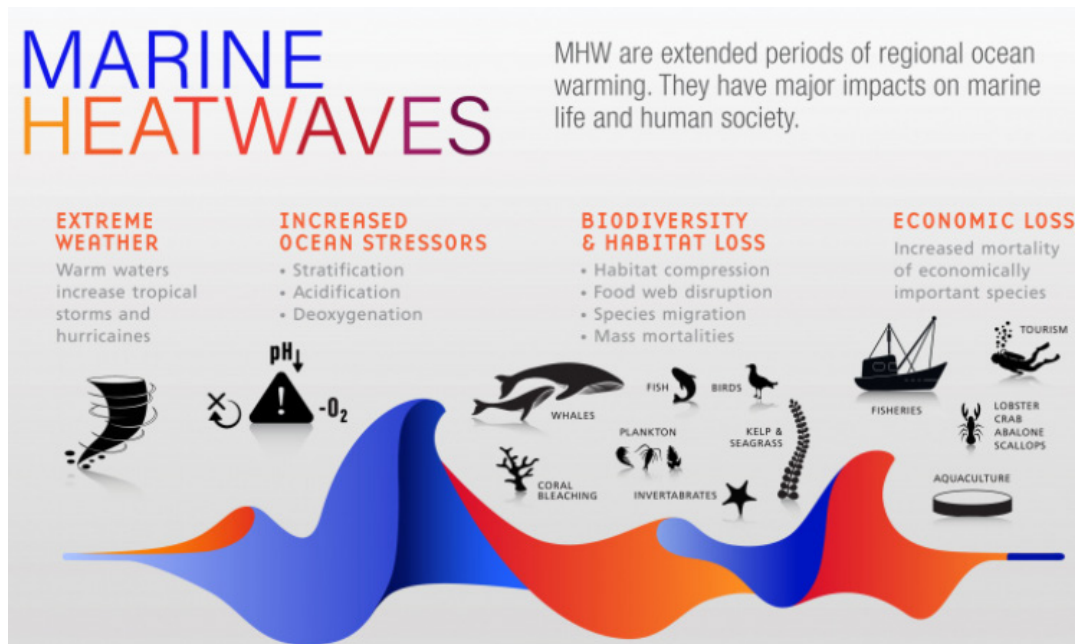
- In recent years, global warming has made MHWs more frequent and intense, but as per the new study this phenomenon is witnessed **well beyond the surface.**
- Extreme temperature changes in the **temperature of the twilight zone** are also a matter of concern,

since many fish species and plankton reside here.

- ♦ The twilight zone of oceans is located **between 200 and 1,000 metres**, still has some visibility.
- ♦ Planktons form the base of the oceanic food chain and are a food source for small fish.

### What are Marine Heat Waves?

- It occurs when the surface temperature of a particular region of the **sea rises to 3 or 4 degree Celsius** above the average temperature for **at least five days**. MHWs can last for weeks, months or even years.
- They can occur in **summer or winter** - they are defined based on differences with expected temperatures for the location and time of year.



### Causes of MHWs

- **Climate Change:** As atmospheric temperatures rise, ocean temperatures also increase, leading to more frequent and intense heat waves.
- **Ocean Currents:** Changes in ocean currents influence local temperatures. For example, if warm water is transported to a specific region, it can lead to elevated sea surface temperatures.
- **El Niño and La Niña Events:** These climate phenomena significantly alter ocean temperatures.
  - ♦ El Niño typically leads to warmer ocean conditions, which can trigger MHWs, while La Niña can have complex effects, sometimes leading to cooler temperatures in certain regions.
- **Local Environmental Changes:** Human activities, such as coastal development, pollution,

and overfishing, alter local ecosystems and contribute to temperature increases.

### Impact of Marine Heat Waves

- **Deaths of Several Marine Species:** MHWs along the Western Australian coast during the summer of 2010 and 2011 caused some "devastating" fish kills.
- **Destruction of kelp forests:** Kelps usually grow in cooler waters, providing habitat and food for many marine animals. MHWs change the ecosystem of the coast and lead to their destruction.
- **Coral Bleaching:** Elevated temperatures stress coral reefs, leading to bleaching and increased mortality rates.
- **Species Distribution:** Many marine species shift their ranges to cooler waters, affecting local ecosystems and fisheries.

- **Impact on Fisheries:** Altered species distributions and health affect fish populations, impacting commercial and recreational fishing.
- **Economic Consequences:** The fishing industry, tourism, and coastal economies suffer due to changes in fish availability and declining health of marine ecosystems.

### Way Forward

- **Climate Action:** Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is crucial.
  - ♦ Transitioning to renewable energy sources and improving energy efficiency, can help mitigate climate change and its impacts on marine ecosystems.
- **Enhanced Monitoring:** Investing in ocean monitoring systems can improve our understanding of MHWs.
- **Research and Modeling:** Supporting research on the causes and consequences of MHWs is vital.
- **Community Engagement:** Involving local communities in conservation and management efforts can foster stewardship of marine resources.
- **Support for Vulnerable Communities:** Providing assistance to communities that rely on marine resources for their livelihoods can help them adapt to changing conditions.
- **Innovative Solutions:** Exploring new technologies and methods, such as aquaculture and seaweed farming, can help mitigate the impacts of MHWs while providing sustainable food sources.

Source: IE

## ON THE EXCEPTION TO MARITAL RAPE

### In News

The Supreme Court is hearing petitions to criminalize non-consensual sexual acts in marriage as rape.

- Justice J.B. Pardiwala questioned why wrongful confinement, intimidation, and assault are criminal offenses, but forced sexual intercourse by a husband is not considered rape.

### Historical Context:

- Marital Rape Exception (MRE) stems from colonial English law, particularly the “doctrine of coverture,” which stripped married women of legal autonomy.
- The MRE was influenced by historical views, notably from jurist Matthew Hale in the 18th century, asserting that marriage equates to irrevocable consent.

- England abolished the MRE in 1991, but India retained it.

### Statistics on Marital Violence:

- Data from the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-2021) shows that nearly one-third of married women in India have faced physical or sexual violence from their husbands.
  - ♦ Additionally, global statistics reveal that approximately three-quarters of all sexual assaults transpire within intimate settings, often perpetrated by someone familiar to the survivor.

### Current Legal Framework:

- Section 375 of the IPC and Section 63 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita exclude non-consensual sexual intercourse by a husband from the definition of rape if the wife is over 15 or 18 years old, respectively.
- They provide legal immunity for husbands regarding non-consensual sex with their wives.
- A married woman can seek relief under other laws, like the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, but these are limited.

### Issues and Concerns

- Petitioners assert that the current laws violate women’s rights to bodily integrity, autonomy, and dignity.
  - ♦ The exception is deemed unconstitutional, violating:
    - Article 14 (equal protection under the law).
    - Article 15(1) (right to non-discrimination).
    - Article 21 (right to privacy and bodily integrity).
- the harm experienced by women from rape, regardless of the perpetrator’s relationship to them, is fundamentally the same.
- It is argued that recognizing a married woman’s right to refuse sex would not undermine marriage; it affirms sexual autonomy.
  - ♦ It is argued that consent must be an unequivocal and voluntary agreement, applicable to married women as well.

### Government’s Stance:

- The Centre argues against striking down the MRE, claiming it could undermine marriage, lead to false allegations, and should be considered a social issue rather than a legal one.

### Judicial Observations:

- Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud noted the inconsistency in law where certain acts are classified as rape if committed by a stranger but not by a husband.



- The Supreme Court has previously acknowledged that intimate partner violence can constitute rape.
- A 2022 Karnataka High Court ruling allowed for the prosecution of husbands for marital rape.

#### Future Outlook

- The Court has the authority to evaluate whether the MRE violates fundamental rights and to potentially strike it down if it does.
  - ♦ The court is considering whether to create a new offense or simply align existing laws with constitutional values.

Source: TH

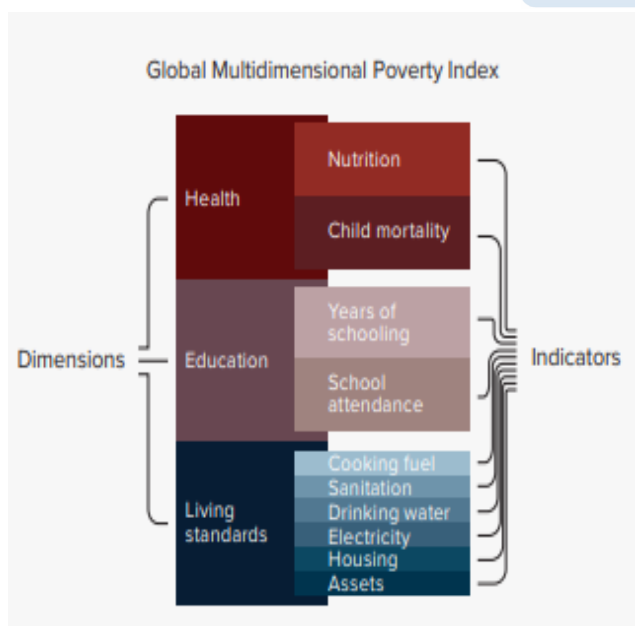
## 2024 GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX

#### Context

- The 2024 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index, is published with the theme of **Poverty Amid Conflict**.

#### About Global Multidimensional Poverty Index

- MPI is published annually by the **UN Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative**.
- **The index utilizes 10 indicators** across these **three dimensions**.
- If a household is deprived in one-third or more of these indicators, it is considered multidimensionally poor.



#### Key Findings

- **Across 112 countries** and 6.3 billion people, **1.1 billion people (18.3 percent)** live in acute multidimensional poverty.

- **Poor people live in rural areas:** 962 million (83.7 percent) live in rural areas.
  - ♦ Around 70.7 percent of all poor people live in rural areas of **Sub-Saharan Africa** (463 million) and **South Asia** (350 million).
- **The five countries** with the largest number of people living in poverty are **India (234 million)**, Pakistan (93 million), Ethiopia (86 million), Nigeria (74 million) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (66 million).
  - ♦ Together, these five countries account for **nearly half (48.1 percent)** of the 1.1 billion poor people.
- Approximately **584 million** people under 18 are living in extreme poverty, making up 27.9% of all children globally, compared to 13.5% of adults.
- **Poverty in conflicted regions:** The report noted that 2023 witnessed more conflicts than at any time since World War II causing displacement of over **117 million people**.
- Nearly 40% of the 1.1 billion people live in poverty, approximately **455 million**, are situated in countries experiencing conflict.

#### Reasons for India's poor performance

- **Regional Disparities:** Rural poverty rates remain high due to inadequate infrastructure, poor service delivery, and limited economic opportunities outside agriculture.
- **Poor nutrition:** India struggles with severe malnutrition, particularly among children.
- **Quality of education:** The quality of education in many government-run schools is poor, leading to insufficient learning outcomes.
- **Water and sanitation:** Poor access to safe drinking water and inadequate sanitation, particularly in rural areas, continues to push many households into multidimensional poverty.
- **Economic setbacks:** The COVID-19 pandemic severely disrupted India's economy, leading to job losses, reduced incomes, and increased vulnerabilities for millions of households.

#### Government Steps for Poverty alleviation

- **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:** It gives legal entitlement to 67% of the population (75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas) to receive highly subsidized foodgrains.
- **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) (2016):** This initiative was introduced to provide LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections to women belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.
- **Ayushman Bharat scheme:** It offers health insurance coverage of up to 5 lakh per family per year to shield beneficiaries from the financial

burden of expensive medical treatments, thereby preventing them from falling deeper into poverty due to healthcare costs.

- **National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan):** Launched in 2018, the mission aims to reduce malnutrition by focusing on stunting, undernutrition, and anemia, especially among children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.
- **Right to Education Act (RTE):** The RTE Act, enacted in 2009, provides free and compulsory education for children between 6 and 14 years.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission:** The mission aims to achieve universal sanitation coverage by constructing toilets and promoting cleanliness.

### Way Ahead

- India has made significant strides in poverty reduction through various initiatives but there is room for further improvement.
- Promoting sustainable livelihoods, improving the quality of service delivery, and leveraging digital solutions for better implementation will ensure that multidimensional poverty continues to decline.

Source: UNDP

## RISING VULNERABILITIES OF RURAL POOR AMID CLIMATE SHOCKS

### Context

- A national-level dialogue on FAO's report "The unjust climate" organized in New Delhi, focused on the multidimensional poverty and climate vulnerabilities in rural parts of the country.

### Key Highlights

- **Income Disparities:** Extreme weather, particularly heat stress, exacerbates income inequality. Poor rural households experience a 5% income loss due to heatwaves and a 4.4% loss from floods, significantly more than wealthier households.
- **Gender Impact:** If the average temperatures were to increase by just 1°C, women would face a staggering 34 percent greater loss in their total incomes compared to men.
- **Extreme temperatures worsen child labour** and increase the unpaid workload for women in poor households.

### Indian Scenario

- The report has suggested that India has made remarkable strides in reducing rural poverty over the past two decades.

- **Headcount poverty rates** have dropped dramatically from **42.5 percent in 2005/06** to **8.6 percent** in 2022/24.
- Climate change hits India's rural poor hardest, especially those trapped in multidimensional poverty.
  - ♦ Structural inequalities and low adaptive capacity worsen the issue.

### Adverse effects of climate change

- **Climate Refugees:** Sea-level rise, floods, and extreme weather displace millions of people, forcing them to migrate.
  - ♦ This creates challenges for both the displaced populations and the host regions, leading to resource conflicts and socio-political tensions.
- **Loss of Livelihoods:** In coastal areas and regions dependent on agriculture and fisheries, climate change threatens traditional livelihoods
- **Increased Energy Demand:** Rising temperatures drive up the demand for energy, particularly for cooling, straining electricity grids and leading to higher energy costs.
- **Spread of Diseases:** Climate change facilitates the spread of vector-borne diseases as warmer temperatures and altered rainfall patterns expand the habitats of mosquitoes and other disease carriers.

### Policy Recommendations

- **Anticipatory social protection:** Scale up financial support programs that provide assistance before extreme weather events to prevent households from resorting to negative coping strategies.
- **Workforce diversification:** Invest in skills development, vocational training, and mentorship programs to help rural households diversify their income sources away from climate-sensitive work.
- **Gender-transformative approaches:** Tackling discriminatory gender norms that prevent women from participating in non-farm employment is crucial.
- **Participatory agricultural extension:** Encouraging group-based approaches to agricultural experimentation can help rural farmers adapt to changing climate conditions.
- **Access to adaptive technologies:** Public investment in promoting climate-resilient agricultural technologies is critical for supporting land-constrained households.

### Way Ahead

- To effectively curb poverty in India, it is crucial to tackle the climate impacts on rural communities,

which are disproportionately affected by extreme weather events.

- Targeted interventions that strengthen the adaptive capacity of rural households and reduce their exposure to climate risks are key to ensuring that poverty reduction gains are sustained.

Source: TH

## NON -KINETIC WARFARE

### Context

- **Indian armed forces' preparedness to deal with "hybrid warfare"** is one of the 17 subjects that the **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence** has narrowed down for **deliberations for the year**.
  - ♦ Hybrid warfare uses both kinetic and non-kinetic warfare methods.

### About

- The committee spoke extensively on the growing danger of **"non-kinetic warfare"** citing the examples of ongoing Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine conflicts, where these methods have been deployed.
- It contended that the future wars will be fought using the tools and ensure that the parliamentary panel closely investigates the Army's preparedness to face these threats.

### Non-Kinetic Warfare

- **Non-kinetic warfare** generally refers to action against an adversary without a direct conventional military action.
- **It comprises possibilities such as** information warfare, cyber warfare, psychological operations, electromagnetic offensives and cryptographic warfare.
- With technological progress, many believe that the non-kinetic warfare can turn out to be **deadlier than the traditional methods** and conflicts may be won by non-kinetic means even before a bullet is fired.
- **Kinetic Warfare:** Kinetic warfare typically means military means employing a range of weapons.
  - ♦ While kinetic options are to physically shoot and destroy the drones, non-kinetic options are jamming them or taking control of their operation.

### Preparedness for non-kinetic warfare is crucial for several reasons:

- **Evolving Threat Landscape:** As technology advances, adversaries increasingly use cyber and information warfare tactics. India must adapt to these evolving threats.

- **Deterrence:** A robust non-kinetic defense can deter potential aggressors by demonstrating the ability to counteract their strategies, thereby reducing the likelihood of conflict.
- **Protection of Critical Infrastructure:** Non-kinetic attacks often target vital systems, such as power grids and communication networks.
  - ♦ Preparedness ensures resilience and rapid recovery from potential disruptions.

### Standing Committee on Defence

- It is constituted under **Rule 331 C of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha**.
- The Committee was constituted for the first time in **1993**.
- It has the Ministry of Defence under its jurisdiction.
- **Members:** It consists of 31 Members; 21 Members from Lok Sabha, nominated by the Speaker, and 10 from Rajya Sabha nominated by the Chairman.
  - ♦ The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker.
- **The term of office** of the Members of the Committee **does not exceed one year**.
- **Functions:** To consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence, make reports on the same and present them to the Parliament;
  - ♦ to examine such Bills pertaining to the Ministry of Defence as are referred to the Committee;
  - ♦ to consider Annual Report of the Ministry of Defence
  - ♦ to consider National Basic Long-Term Policy Documents presented to the Houses.

Sources: TH

## NEWS IN SHORT

### INTERNATIONAL ABHIDHAMMA DIVAS

#### Context

- PM Modi addressed the ceremony in celebration of International Abhidhamma Divas and recognition of Pali as a classical language in New Delhi.

#### Abhidhamma Divas

- **It is celebrated to commemorate** the descent of Lord Buddha from the celestial realm of **Tāvātīṃsa-devaloka** after teaching the Abhidhamma to the deities, including his late mother.

- The **Asokan Elephant Pillar**, a historical marker at the site, marks this significant event.

### Teachings of Abhidhamma

- Abhidhamma adopts a specialized and analytical **approach to explore reality**.
- It offers a detailed framework for understanding the **nature of existence, addressing the processes of birth, death, and mental phenomena** in a precise and abstract manner.
- The **Abhidhamma categorizes reality into four ultimate realities**: Citta (consciousness), Cetasika (mental factors), Rupa (material phenomena) and Nibbana (the unconditioned state, or ultimate liberation).

### Classical Status to Pali language

- The ancient language served as the vehicle for delivering Lord Buddha's teachings around **500 B.C.**
- The **Tipitaka**, or **"Threefold Basket,"** which includes the **Vinaya Pitaka** (monastic discipline), **Sutta Pitaka** (Buddha's discourses), and **Abhidhamma Pitaka** (philosophical analysis), is entirely written in Pali.
  - ♦ These texts are the foundation of Theravada Buddhist philosophy and practice.
- Pali literature encompasses the **Jataka Kathas**, which recount the stories of the Buddha's previous lives.

Source: PIB

## AZORES ISLANDS

### Context

- The regional assembly of Portugal's Azores Islands approved the creation of the **largest protected marine area in the North Atlantic** to reach international conservation goals.

### About

- It aims to achieve the goals set by the **United Nations of protecting 30% of the Earth's land and sea by 2030** under a global pact adopted last year.
- The network ensures the **preservation of underwater mountain ranges and vulnerable marine ecosystems**, including deep-sea corals, hydrothermal vents and marine species.

### Azores Islands

- The nine-island archipelago is an autonomous region roughly 1,500 km (932 miles) **west of mainland Portugal lies in the North Atlantic Ocean** and home to unique marine biodiversity.

- The Azores are divided into **three widely separated island groups**: the eastern group, the central group, and the northwestern group.
- Their unstable geologic nature is indicated by numerous earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.



Source: TP

## US'S CLICK-TO-CANCEL RULE

### In News

The United States' Federal Trade Commission has finalized a rule requiring sellers to make cancellation as easy as signing up for services.

- Most provisions will take effect 180 days after publication in the Federal Register.

### About Rule

- The rule is part of the FTC's modernization of its 1973 Negative Option Rule to address deceptive practices in a digital economy.
- The rule will apply to almost all negative option programs across any media.
  - ♦ The FTC defines "negative option" programmes as "companies assuming a customer accepted a service unless they specifically rejected it".
  - ♦ This would include something like a consumer agreeing to a one-week trial, and not cancelling it before being billed for regular membership.

### Key Guidelines :

- Sellers cannot misrepresent material facts in negative option marketing.
- Sellers must disclose important information before obtaining consumers' billing information.
- Sellers must obtain informed consent from consumers before charging them for negative option features.



- Sellers must provide a straightforward mechanism for consumers to cancel and stop charges immediately.

#### Do you know ?

- The final rule dropped the requirement for annual reminders about negative option features.
- Sellers can inform consumers about plan modifications when they seek cancellation, but must first ask if they want to hear about it.

#### Objectives

- The rule aims to eliminate complicated cancellation processes, saving consumers time and money.

Source:IE

## NEW STATUE OF “LADY JUSTICE”

#### In News

- The Supreme Court of India has introduced a new statue of “Lady Justice” in its judges’ library to reflect a modern interpretation of justice.

#### About statue of “Lady Justice”



- The statue of “Lady Justice” was designed by Vinod Goswami, a muralist and educator from Delhi.
- The statue depicts a saree-clad woman without a blindfold.
  - ♦ She holds scales in one hand and a copy of the Constitution of India in the other, replacing the traditional sword.
- **Symbolism:** The absence of a blindfold signifies that “Law is not blind; it sees everyone equally,” according to Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud.
  - ♦ This new representation aims to convey the importance of impartiality and equality in justice.
  - ♦ The statue reflects ongoing legal reforms and the goal of “decolonising” India’s legal framework.

#### Do you know ?

- The imagery of **Lady Justice originates from Greek and Roman** mythology, notably represented by Themis and Justitia, who were not traditionally depicted blindfolded.
- The blindfolded image became popularized in the **15th century**, originally as a critique of justice.
- The **British Raj introduced the iconography** of Lady Justice in **India**, which continues to be used in courthouses.
  - ♦ Historical depictions of Lady Justice can be found in major Indian high courts, sometimes with and sometimes without a blindfold.

Source :IE

## INDIA’S FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES

#### Context

- In one of the largest decreases in India’s forex reserves in recent times, the country’s **foreign exchange kitty dropped \$10.746 billion to \$690.43 billion.**
  - ♦ At the end of September, the reserves had hit an all-time high of \$704.885 billion.

#### About

- Foreign exchange reserves are **assets** that are denominated in a **foreign currency held by a central bank.**
- These reserves are used to **back liabilities and influence monetary policy.**
- These include foreign currencies, bonds, Gold reserves, treasury bills, and other government securities.

#### Purpose of Foreign Exchange Reserves:

- **Stabilizing the currency:** Central banks use reserves to manage exchange rates and maintain currency stability.
- **Facilitating international trade:** Reserves allow a country to pay for imports and settle international debts.
- **Building confidence:** High levels of reserves enhance investor confidence in a country’s economy.
- **Crisis management:** Reserves provide a buffer against economic shocks or sudden capital outflows.

Source: ET



## SMART INSULIN FOR DIABETES

### In News :

Scientists have developed a “smart” insulin, named NNC2215, that responds in real-time to blood sugar changes.

### About NNC2215:

- It features an “on-and-off switch” within the insulin molecule itself.
- It contains a ring structure and a glucoside that keeps insulin inactive when blood sugar is low.
  - ♦ When glucose levels rise, glucose replaces the glucoside, activating the insulin.
- **Effectiveness:** NNC2215 has shown to be as effective as human insulin in lowering blood glucose in animal trials (rats and pigs).

### Diabetes

- Diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces. Insulin is a hormone that regulates blood glucose.
  - ♦ It affects over half a billion people worldwide, causing nearly seven million deaths annually.
- **Types of Diabetes:** Type 1 Diabetes characterized by the pancreas not producing enough insulin, often starting in childhood.
  - ♦ Type 2 Diabetes involves cells becoming resistant to insulin, requiring higher production from the pancreas.
- **Current Treatment:** Patients use synthetic insulin, which requires constant monitoring to prevent dangerous fluctuations in blood sugar levels.
- **Future Outlook :** Human trials are planned to further assess the safety and efficacy of the new insulin.

Source :IE

## LOCUST INFESTATION

### Context

- Plantations of farmers are severely affected by the **spotted locust infestation in Kerala**.

### About

- Locusts are the **short-horned grasshoppers** with **highly migratory habit**.
- Locusts can change from a **solitary phase to a gregarious phase**, where they form dense swarms that can **travel hundreds of kilometers** in search of food.

- **Only four species** viz. Desert locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*), Migratory locust (*Locusta migratoria*), Bombay Locust ( *Nomadacris succincta*) and Tree locust (*Anacridium sp.*) are found in India.
  - ♦ **The desert locust** is the most important pest species in India as well as in intercontinental context.
- **Concern:** They cause great devastation to natural and cultivated vegetation leading to national emergency of food and fodder.

Source: TH

## AFRICAN BAOBAB (ADANSONIA DIGITATA)

### Context

- A new research by South African ecologists has refuted the claim that the African Baobab tree is dying due to climate change.

### African Baobab

- **Characteristics:** Baobabs grow to a height of **5–25 meters** and have a trunk diameter of up to **14 meters**.
  - ♦ **Their trunks are wide and bottle-shaped**, storing water for survival in arid environments.
  - ♦ **Baobabs are deciduous**, losing their leaves in the dry season, and remaining leafless for about eight months of the year.
- **Distribution:** They are typically found in dry, hot savannas of sub-Saharan Africa. It can live for over a **thousand years**.
- **Fruits:** Baobabs produce hard-shelled, oval fruits called which are rich in vitamin C and other nutrients.
- **Cultural Significance:** In African folklore, the Baobab is often seen as a **sacred tree**, and it holds a place of reverence in many local traditions and myths.



Source: DTE

## MUSANED PLATFORM

### Context

- Saudi Arabia launched the Musaned Platform to ensure wage protection and human rights of expat workers.

### About

- It is a comprehensive electronic platform to **facilitate the recruitment process of domestic workers**, enhance the protection of rights for all parties involved, and inform employers and domestic workers of their rights and responsibilities.
- **The platform will benefit** workers from 10 African countries, including Sudan and Ethiopia, and nine Asian countries such as India and Bangladesh, the platform enhances transparency and accountability.

### Key Features

- **Foreign workers** in the domestic (household) work sector can **check the existing employment contracts** and follow updates in a dedicated Musaned labor app.
- It also **allows foreign embassies to have “view access”** on the system on all the details related to their citizens working in Saudi.
- The Musaned platform can be linked with contract insurance and health benefits.

Source: TH

## MALAWI

### Context

- In the final leg of her three nation visit, President Droupadi Murmu reached Malawi marking the first-ever visit by a President of India to Malawi.

### About: Malawi

- It is a **landlocked** south-east African country bordered by Zambia to the west, Tanzania to the north and northeast, and Mozambique to the east, south and southwest.
- **Lake Malawi** (also called Lake Nyasa), the third largest and second deepest lake in Africa, and the ninth largest in the world, was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1984. It accounts for more than one-fifth of the country's total area.
- The **East African Rift Valley** runs through the country from north to south. The **capital**, and largest city is **Lilongwe**.
- The name Malawi comes from the **Maravi**, an old name for the Chewa people who inhabit the area. The country is nicknamed **“The Warm Heart of Africa”** because of the friendliness of its people.
- **Political independence:** The country achieved full independence, as Malawi, in 1964 from the British.
- **Economy:** The country's economy is agro based with agriculture contributing 37% of the national GDP and employing 80% of the total workforce.



Source: AIR

