

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework

Context: The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Supply Chain Agreement was signed by the 14 IPEF partners.

- The third Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Ministerial Meeting occurred in San Francisco on November 14, 2023.
- The framework, initiated in May 2022, includes 14 partner countries and aims to strengthen economic engagement for growth and prosperity.
- It is **structured around four pillars:** Trade, Supply Chains, Clean Economy, and Fair Economy.
- **India participates in Pillars II to IV, with observer status in Pillar I.**
- Substantial conclusions were reached in negotiations under Pillars III (Clean Economy), IV (Fair Economy), and the Agreement on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity.
- The previously negotiated IPEF Supply Chain Agreement was signed during the Ministerial Meeting.
- The Clean Economy (Pillar-III) focuses on cooperation in clean energy, climate-friendly technologies, and investment in climate-related projects.
- Emphasis is placed on collaboration in research, development, and implementation of climate-friendly technologies.
- The Fair Economy (Pillar-IV) aims to enhance anti-corruption and tax measures to promote commerce, trade, and investment.
- Key benefits include information sharing, asset recovery, and cross-border investigations to combat corruption, money laundering, and terror financing.
- **IPEF:**
 - The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) is a US-led initiative aimed at strengthening economic partnerships for resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.
 - Launched in 2021, it initially had a dozen partners, collectively representing 40% of the world GDP.
 - IPEF is not a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) but allows members to negotiate specific areas of interest.
- The framework is structured around four main pillars:
 - Supply-chain resilience
 - Clean energy, decarbonization, and infrastructure
 - Taxation and anti-corruption
 - Fair and resilient trade.

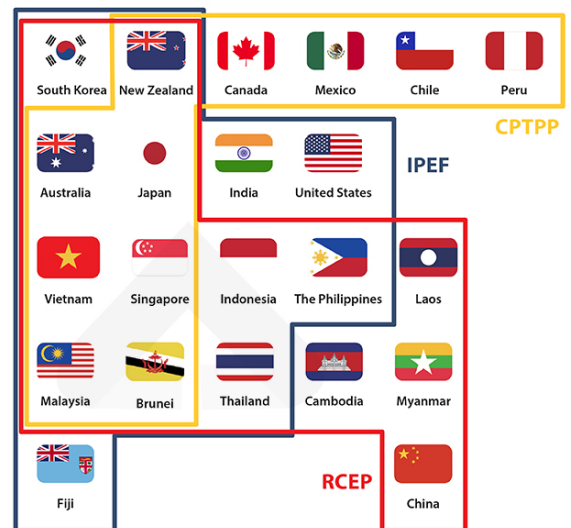
- Current members include India and 13 countries located in the Pacific Ocean:
 - Australia
 - Brunei
 - Fiji
 - India
 - Indonesia
 - Japan
 - South Korea
 - Malaysia
 - New Zealand
 - Philippines
 - Singapore
 - Thailand
 - United States
 - Vietnam.

US Treaty Partner¹

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue² (Quad)

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Other



Birsa Munda

Context: Recently, Janjaatiya Gaurav Divas was celebrated on the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda with a plethora of projects launched.

➤ Birth and Background:

- Birsa Munda was born on November 15, 1875, in Ulihatu village, present-day Jharkhand, into a tribal Munda family.
- During this period, the British Raj disrupted tribal lives in Central and Eastern India, introducing the exploitative zamindari system in Chhota Nagpur.

➤ Impact of British Rule:

- The Britishers, along with outsiders, disrupted the tribal agrarian system and introduced exploitative elements like moneylenders and contractors.
- Aggressive missionary activities, supported by the Raj, interfered with Adivasis' religious and cultural beliefs.

➤ Birsa's Resistance:

- Converted to Christianity, Birsa left a mission school when he discovered British attempts to convert tribals. He founded the 'Birsait' faith, hindering British conversion efforts.

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- Witnessing Sardari Larai movement's non-violent resistance, Birsa saw demands for tribal rights ignored, leading to a decline from landowners to laborers.

➤ Religious and Social Reforms:

- Birsa reformed religious practices, discouraged superstitions, and emphasized new tenets and prayers to restore tribal pride.
- Stressed the importance of tribal sovereignty and ancestral control over land, promoting monogamy.

➤ Ulgulan - The Great Tumult:

- Became a mass leader, considered Bhagwan and Dharati Aba by followers.
- Led the Ulgulan (great tumult) against colonial powers, urging people not to pay rent and attacking outposts of authorities.
- Effectively resisted the British with traditional weapons, compelling them to address tribal exploitation.

➤ Capture and Legacy:

- Captured by British police at 25, Birsa died in captivity on June 9, 1900.
- Birsa's struggle led to the Chhota Nagpur Tenancy Act of 1908, protecting tribal land rights and restricting non-tribal transfers.

Revolt	Year	Area	Details
Pahariyas' Rebellion	1778	Raj Mahal hills	Led by- martial Pahariyas Against- British expansion on their lands
Chuar Uprising	1776		Led by- Chuar aboriginal tribesmen Against- rise in demands & privation by British
Kol Uprising	1831	Chottanagpur	Leader- Buddho Bhagat Against- expansion of British rule on their lands & transfer of their lands to outsiders Was suppressed
Ho Uprisings	1827 & 1831	Singbhum & Chottanagpur	In 1827- against occupation of Singbhum by British In 1831- against the newly introduced farming revenue policy
Kandh Uprising	1837-56 & 1914	Hilly region from Tamil Nadu to Bengal (1837) & Orissa (1914)	Against- interference in tribal customs & imposition of new taxes
Naikada Movement	1860s	MP & Gujarat	Against- British & caste Hindus
Kharwar Rebellion	1870s	Bihar	Against- Revenue settlement activities
Khonda Dora Campaign	1900	Dabur region in Vishakapatnam	By- Khonda Doras Leader- Korra Mallaya
Bhil Revolts	1817-19 & 1913	Western Ghats	Against Company rule (1817-19) & to form Bhil raj (1913)
Bhuyan & Juang Rebellions	1867 & 1891	Keonjhar (Orissa)	Leaders- Ratna Nayak (1867) & Dharni Dhar Nayak (1891) Against- installation of a British protégé on throne after death of Raja in 1867
Koya Revolts	1880 & 1886	Eastern Godavari region (Andhra Pradesh)	Leaders- Tomma Sora (1880) & Raja Anantayyar (1886) Against- oppression by police, moneylenders; new regulations & denial of their rights over forests
Bastar Revolt	1910	Jagdapur	Against- new feudal & forest levies
Tana Bhagat Movements	1914-15	Chottanagpur	Leaders- Jatra Bhagat, Balram Bhagat Preaching- God's benevolent delegate would arrive to free tribals Against- interference of outsiders Began as Sanskritisation Movement
Rampa Revolts	1916 & 1922-24	Rampa region in Andhra Pradesh	Leader- Alluri Sitaram Raju of the Koyas Against- British interference Raju was captured & killed in 1924
Jharkhand Uprising	1920*	Chottanagpur & parts of Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal	Adivasi Mahasabha was formed in 1937; It was replaced by Regional Jharkhand Party in 1949
Forest Satyagrahas			1- Chenchu tribals (1920s, Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh) 2- Karwars of Palamau (1930s, Bihar) Against- Increasing British control over forests
Gond Uprising	1940s		To bring together believers of Gond Dharma

US China Climate Deal

Context: The United States and China jointly declared an agreement to significantly boost clean energy, replace fossil fuels, and diminish emissions contributing to global warming.

- The United States and China have reached a significant agreement to boost clean energy, reduce fossil fuel dependency, and cut emissions.
- This development is crucial as the U.S. and China together contribute to 38% of the world's greenhouse gases.
- Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping met, and this agreement precedes the UN climate talks (COP28) in Dubai in two weeks.
- The deal could inject ambition into global climate talks, making it easier for other countries to commit to emission reductions.
- Similar cooperation between the U.S. and China in the past, leading up to COP21, influenced the language of the Paris Agreement in 2015.
- There's ongoing debate at COP28 on issues like tripling renewable energy capacity, doubling energy efficiency, and phasing out fossil fuels.

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- The conference faces criticism, being held in the UAE, a major oil producer, with concerns about nonbinding commitments under fossil fuel influence.
- The U.S.-China deal aims to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030 and accelerate the shift from coal, oil, and gas generation.
- The agreement lacks strong enforcement mechanisms but pushes for reduction targets covering all greenhouse gases in the countries' next climate pledges.
- China's commitment to address methane, a significant emitter, is noteworthy, signaling a step forward in the fight against global warming.
- Critics argue that the deal falls short in clearly committing to phasing down oil and gas emissions, and it lacks promises from China to phase out coal.
- Concerns persist that the global response to climate change is insufficiently rapid and ambitious, and more decisive action is needed.
- **UNFCCC**
 - **Introduction to UNFCCC:** The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international environmental treaty.
 - **Primary Goal:** Aims to reduce atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, preventing harmful interference with the earth's climate system.
 - **Signing and Origins:** Signed in 1992 at the Earth Summit, also known as the Rio Summit or Rio Conference.
 - **Commitments of Participating Countries:** Mandates participating countries to commit to stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions.
 - **Annual Conferences:** The convention involves 197 parties, convening annually in Conferences of the Parties (COP) to assess progress in addressing climate change.
 - **Article 2 – Ultimate Objective:** Article 2 outlines the Convention's ultimate objective, aiming for the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations to prevent dangerous interference with the climate system.
 - **Timeframe and Qualifications:** The objective should be achieved within a timeframe sufficient for ecosystems to adapt naturally, safeguard food production, and ensure sustainable economic development.
 - **Classification of members:**
 - **Annex I:** 43 parties, predominantly developed countries.
 - **Annex II:** 24 countries from Annex I, expected to offer technical and financial aid to developing countries.
 - **Annex B:** Subset of Annex I countries with Kyoto greenhouse gas emissions targets.
 - **Least-Developed Countries (LDCs):** 47 parties with special status, acknowledging their challenges in adapting to climate change effects.
 - **Non-Annex I:** Parties not listed in Annex I, mainly comprising low-income developing countries.

Heat Exposure in 2022

Context: Heat exposure led to the loss of 191 billion potential labour hours in India in 2022, as reported in The Lancet.

Key Findings:

- In 2022, heat exposure resulted in the loss of 490 billion potential labour hours globally, marking a 42% increase from 1991-2000.
- The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change compiled the data, considering United Nations estimates of occupational sunlight exposure and working-age populations.

India's Impact:

- India experienced the loss of 191 billion potential labour hours due to heat exposure in 2022, reflecting a 54% increase from 1991-2000.
- The associated income loss in India amounted to \$219 billion in 2022, equivalent to 6.3% of the country's GDP.

Agricultural Workers Hit Hardest:

- Agricultural workers bore the brunt, constituting 64% of potential hours lost and 55% of potential income losses in 2022.
- Globally, agricultural workers are the most affected, while higher-income countries, like the US, witness a shift to labourers in construction.

Global Workforce Impact:

- On average, each worker worldwide lost 143 potential hours of labour capacity.
- Over 1.3 billion workers, accounting for 39% of the global workforce, experienced losses surpassing this average, with 80% from low- or medium-Human Development Index (HDI) countries.

Future Projections:

- Without further adaptation, the period from 2041-60, compatible with limiting temperature rise to 2°C, may see more than a doubling of annual potential labor hours lost compared to 1995-2014.
- No additional mitigation efforts could result in nearly 2.5 times higher potential labour hours lost.

Economic and Global Inequities:

- Economic losses from extreme weather events increased by 23% from 2010–14 to 2018–22, totaling \$264 billion in 2022.
- Heat exposure contributed to global potential income losses amounting to \$863 billion.
- Low- and medium-HDI countries were disproportionately affected, with potential income losses equivalent to 6.1% and 3.8% of their GDP, respectively.

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Heat related illnesses

- **Heatstroke or Sunstroke (Serious):**
 - **Symptoms:** Hot, flushed skin, fever exceeding 105°F (40.5°C).
 - **Characteristics:** Over 50% of affected children do not sweat.
 - **Severity:** Can lead to confusion, coma, or shock; constitutes a life-threatening emergency.
 - **Prompt Treatment:** Immediate intervention is crucial, as untreated cases have a high mortality rate.
- **Heat Exhaustion:**
 - **Symptoms:** Pale skin, profuse sweating, nausea, dizziness, fainting, or weakness.
 - **Fever:** Mild fever between 100 - 102°F (37.8 - 39°C) may occur temporarily.
 - **Dehydration Link:** Often attributed to dehydration from excessive sweating.
 - **Progression Risk:** Severe cases can escalate to heatstroke, requiring urgent medical attention.
 - **Management:** Mild symptoms can be addressed at home with fluids and rest; persistent or worsening symptoms necessitate medical evaluation.
- **Heat Cramps:**
 - **Characteristics:** Intense muscle cramps in legs (calf or thigh muscles) and stomach; no fever.
 - **Additional Manifestations:** Tightness or spasms in the hands may also occur.
 - **Resolution:** Symptoms typically improve after adequate fluid intake and cooling down.
 - **Duration:** All symptoms should subside within a few hours.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Tribal Advisory Council



The Odisha government recently decided to allow tribal communities to use their land for education and industry, following the recommendation of the Tribal Advisory Council.

About Tribal Advisory Council:

- Under Article 244(1) of the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, TACs are mandated in states with Scheduled Areas and, if directed, in states with Scheduled Tribes but no Scheduled Areas.
- TACs are constituted in states having Scheduled Areas like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, etc. Also in states without Scheduled Areas like West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand.
- This advisory body advises the Governor on matters concerning the welfare and advancement of Scheduled Tribes in the state.

Role in Fifth Schedule:

- The Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution governs the management and governance of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes primarily inhabited by tribal groups.
- **Article 244(1):** The provisions of the Fifth Schedule apply to the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Tribes in all states except Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
- The President of India holds the power to declare an area as a Scheduled Area or cease a specified part from being one.
- The President, after consulting the State Governor, can increase or decrease the area of any Scheduled Area and modify its boundaries, limited to rectification purposes only.

Cryosphere



Recently a report emphasized that the world needs to limit global warming to 1.5°C to protect cryosphere.

About Cryosphere:

- The Cryosphere refers to the Earth's frozen water in various forms such as ice sheets, river ice, glaciers, permafrost, sea ice, solid precipitation and snow, playing a crucial role in the planet's climate system.
- It holds over 68% of the Earth's freshwater in ice and glaciers, while another 30% is underground.
- It is highly susceptible to temperature variations, making it ground zero for climate change impacts due to its sensitivity to warming temperatures.
- According to the World Meteorological Organisation's 2022 report, the Cryosphere is experiencing a significant reduction globally.
- Programs like "Cryosphere and Climate" initiated by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) during the 12th five-year plan have contributed to improving our knowledge about the Antarctic cryosphere and climate variability.

Measles



Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported a concerning 43% surge in measles-related deaths between 2021 and 2022.

About Measles:



- Measles is an airborne disease caused by a paramyxovirus, primarily transmitted through direct contact and respiratory droplets.
- It spreads through respiratory droplets, initially affecting the respiratory tract before disseminating throughout the body, potentially causing severe complications.
- Those who aren't immune, like unvaccinated people or those vaccinated without getting immunity, are more likely to get sick.
- Especially, kids without vaccines and pregnant women can have serious problems if they get measles.

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	<p>Symptoms: Measles often starts with a high fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes and white spots inside the cheeks after about 10-14 days of catching it.</p> <p>Treatment: There's no specific antiviral treatment available for measles, emphasizing the criticality of prevention through vaccination.</p> <p>Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Measles & Rubella Initiative (M&RI) is a team effort by groups like the American Red Cross, CDC, UNICEF, and WHO. ➤ They work together to get rid of measles and rubella in many places around the world.
<p>Gamma-Ray Bursts</p> 	<p>A recent study proposed that Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs) might have the power to temporarily harm the ozone layer.</p> <p>About Gamma-Ray Bursts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs) are brief flashes of gamma-ray light, packing more energy in a few seconds than our Sun emits in its entire life. ➤ They have two phases: the initial burst of gamma-rays (prompt emission) followed by a longer-lasting multi-wavelength afterglow. ➤ Short bursts likely occur when neutron stars collide, while longer bursts form when massive stars collapse into black holes. ➤ When a GRB happens, it becomes the brightest source of cosmic gamma-ray photons in the observable Universe. ➤ Gamma rays have the shortest wavelengths and highest energy among electromagnetic waves. ➤ They're produced by incredibly hot and energetic celestial objects like neutron stars, supernovae, and around black holes.
<p>Place in News</p> <p>Somalia</p>	<p>Recently, Somalia experienced severe flooding, labeled a once-in-a-century event by the United Nations.</p> <p>Somalia (Capital: Mogadishu)</p> <p>Location: Somalia is situated in the eastern part of Africa, specifically in the region known as the Horn of Africa.</p> <p>Political Boundaries: Somalia shares its borders with Ethiopia to the west, Djibouti to the northwest, the Gulf of Aden to the north, the Indian Ocean to the east, and Kenya to the southwest.</p> <p>Physical Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Ogo Mountains in the north shape the terrain, running east to west along the Gulf of Aden coast. ➤ Somalia boasts Africa's longest mainland coastline, stretching over 3,333 kilometers along the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden. ➤ Somalia is separated from Seychelles by the Somali Sea. 

POINTS TO PONDER

- ❖ Under which initiative were the Yogini Chamunda and Gomukhi idols repatriated to India from the United Kingdom? - **India Pride Project**
- ❖ What type of aircraft was used by the Indian Air Force for the rescue mission in under construction tunnel near Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand? - **C-130J Super Hercules**
- ❖ Who recently took oath as the 8th President of the Republic of Maldives? - **Mohammed Muizzu**
- ❖ Which country recently proposed to co-chair the Expert Working Group on Counter-Terrorism in ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting - Plus (ADMM-Plus)? - **India**
- ❖ What are the two types of narcotic raw materials produced from the opium poppy in India? - **Opium gum (latex) and the concentrate of poppy straw (CPS)**

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