



Issue 16 | Volume 1 |



# NLTI GK GAZETTE

*For CLAT, AILET and OLETs  
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## NEWS

# GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2023

## Why in News?

- The Global Hunger Index 2023 revealed that India secured the 111th position among 125 nations, indicating a severe hunger level. In comparison, neighbouring countries such as Pakistan (102nd), Bangladesh (81st), Nepal (69th), and Sri Lanka (60th) fared better than India.

## What is the Global Hunger Index?

### About:

- Published annually by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, the Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a peer-reviewed report. It comprehensively measures and tracks hunger globally, reflecting various dimensions of hunger over time. The GHI score ranges from 0 to 100, where 0 implies no hunger, and 100 is the worst score.

### Calculation:

- The GHI score is calculated based on four indicators: undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality. Each country's score reflects the severity of hunger, considering these dimensions.

### Alignment with SDGs:

- The GHI aligns with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by indicating progress towards goals related to nutrition, child health, and the eradication of hunger.

**Key Takeaways from GHI 2023:**

- India's GHI Score:
  - India's GHI score in 2023 is 28.7, classified as "serious" on the Severity of Hunger Scale. This marks a slight improvement from the 2015 score of 29.2, also considered serious. However, significant progress has been made compared to the alarming scores of 38.4 in 2000 and 35.5 in 2008.
- Related Data:
  - Child stunting stands at 35.5%, undernourishment at 16.6%, and child wasting at a concerning 18.7%. The under-five mortality rate is 3.1%.
- Global Hunger Trends:
  - Top-ranked countries with low hunger levels include Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Chile, and China. Bottom-ranked countries with high hunger levels include Yemen, Madagascar, and the Central African Republic. The global GHI score is 18.3, considered moderate, but progress has stagnated due to various crises.

**Indian Government's Response to GHI Report 2023:****Criticisms:**

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development criticized the report's methodology, citing serious methodological issues and malafide intent. The government questioned the accuracy of indicators related to child health, expressing doubts about the small sample size used for the "Proportion of Undernourished Population" indicator.

**Focus on Child Health:**

- The government emphasized that three out of four GHI indicators pertain to children's health, potentially not offering a complete representation of the entire population.

**Complex Factors:**

- The government argued that indicators like stunting and wasting result from various complex factors, such as sanitation, genetics, environment, and food utilization, beyond hunger alone.

**Factors Responsible for Hunger in India:****Socioeconomic Disparities and Poverty:**

- Widespread poverty and socioeconomic disparities are fundamental determinants of hunger in India, leading to inadequate food consumption and limited access to essential nutritional and healthcare services.

**Hidden Hunger:**

- India faces severe micronutrient deficiency or hidden hunger due to poor diet, diseases, and failure to meet micronutrient needs during critical periods like pregnancy and lactation.

**Inefficient Agricultural Practices:**

- Inefficiencies in agriculture, including suboptimal crop yields and post-harvest losses, contribute to insufficient food availability.

**Gender Inequality:**

- Gender-based disparities exacerbate hunger, with women and girls facing unequal access to food, leading to chronic undernutrition.

**Climate Change:**

- India's susceptibility to climate change-related stressors, like changing weather patterns and natural disasters, disrupts agricultural production, causing food scarcity.

**Lack of Nutritional Program Audits:**

- Despite various nutritional programs, a lack of audit mechanisms at the local governance level hinders their effectiveness.



## NEWS

# SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IN INDIA

## Why in News?

- The Supreme Court recently delivered a landmark verdict in the case of *Supriyo v Union of India*, rejecting petitions to legalize same-sex marriage. The judgment extensively explored the Special Marriage Act, 1954, and its connections with homosexuality.

## What is the Supreme Court's Observation?

### Against Constitutional Validity:

- In a 3:2 verdict, a Constitution Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India ruled against granting constitutional validity to same-sex marriages. It emphasized that amending the Special Marriage Act (SMA) 1954 to include same-sex couples falls within the domain of the Parliament.

### Other Observations:

- While the court affirmed that there is no fundamental right to marry under the Constitution, it acknowledged queer persons' equal right to enter into a "union." Notably, two judges favoured extending civil unions to same-sex couples.

## Legality of Same-Sex Marriages in India

### Statutory Right:

- Marriage isn't expressly recognized as a fundamental or constitutional right under the Indian Constitution but is a statutory right. Judicial decisions have progressively acknowledged the right to marry as integral to Article 21 of the Constitution.

### **Earlier Supreme Court Views:**

- In the Shafin Jahan case (2018), the Supreme Court held that the right to marry a person of one's choice is intrinsic to Article 21. In the Navjet Singh Johar case (2018), it affirmed that LGBTQ community members are entitled to full constitutional rights and equal protection of the law.

### **Special Marriage Act (SMA) 1954**

#### **About:**

- The SMA provides for civil marriage for Indians and Indian nationals abroad, irrespective of their religion. Marriages under this act are not governed by personal laws but by the SMA.

#### **Features:**

- It allows individuals from different religious backgrounds to marry, liberating them from traditional marriage requirements.

### **Arguments in Favor of Same-Sex Marriage**

#### **Equal Rights and Protection:**

- All individuals, regardless of sexual orientation, deserve the right to marry and form families, ensuring equal legal rights and protections.

#### **Strengthening Families:**

- Same-sex marriage provides social and economic benefits, contributing to family and community well-being.

#### **Cohabitation as a Fundamental Right:**

- The CJI acknowledged cohabitation as a fundamental right, emphasizing the government's obligation to recognize its social impact.

#### **Global Acceptance:**

- Many countries globally allow same-sex marriage, aligning with democratic principles.

### **Arguments Against Same-Sex Marriage**

#### **Religious and Cultural Beliefs:**

- Opposition stems from beliefs that marriage should conform to traditional definitions based on religious and cultural values.

#### **Procreation:**

- Some argue that procreation is the primary purpose of marriage, and same-sex couples cannot have biological children.

#### **Legal Issues:**

- Concerns include potential legal problems related to inheritance, tax, and property rights.

### **Adoption Concerns:**

- Adoption by same-sex couples might face societal stigma, impacting children's well-being.



## NEWS

# RESERVATION FOR WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT

## Why in News?

- Recently the Government passed 106th Constitutional Amendment Act which provides for 1/3 seats reserved in Lok Sabha and State legislative assemblies (LA) for women.

## Background:

The bill was previously introduced in 1996, 1998, 2009, 2010 and 2014.

## Related committees:

- Committee on the Status of Women in India (1971)
- Committee under Margaret Alva (1987)
- Committee on the status of women (2013)
- Geeta Mukherjee Committee (1996)

## Key Features:

### **New Articles Inserted in the Constitution:**

- Article 330A- Reservation for Women in LS
- Article 332A- Reservation for Women in State LAs
- Article 239AA- Reservation for women in NCT Delhi
- Article 334A- Reservation to become effective after delimitation is undertaken and Census is conducted.

## **Time Period:**

- Reservation to be provided for 15 years (can be extended)

**Rotation of seats reserved:**

- The rotation of seats takes place after every delimitation in the country.

**Why the act was needed:**

**Political underrepresentation:**

- Only 82 women MPs in LS (15.2 %) and 31 in RS (13%)
- On an Average, Women constitutes only 9% of the total member in State LAs.



Your paragraph **Understanding Tax Evasion**

## NEWS

# GLOBAL TAX EVASION REPORT 2024

### Why in News?

- The European Union Tax Observatory has recently unveiled the 'Global Tax Evasion Report 2024,' offering insights into critical aspects of tax evasion, the Global Minimum Tax (GMT) targeting billionaires, and strategies to combat tax evasion.

### Definition:

- Tax evasion involves illegal practices to evade owed taxes, encompassing underreporting income, inflating deductions, concealing money in offshore accounts, and fraudulent methods to diminish tax liability.

### International Reforms to Combat Tax Evasion:

- Global Minimum Tax (GMT):
  - Aims to apply a standard minimum tax rate to a defined corporate income base globally.
  - OECD's proposal suggests a 15% corporate minimum tax on foreign profits of large multinationals.
  - In 2021, a group of 136 countries, including India, endorsed a minimum global tax rate of 15% for MNCs.
- Automatic Exchange of Information:
- Introduced in 2017 to counter offshore tax evasion by facilitating the automatic exchange of bank information internationally.



## **Key Highlights of the Report**

### **Challenges in Curbing Offshore Tax Evasion:**

- Despite a decrease in offshore tax evasion, challenges persist, including non-compliance by offshore financial institutions and limitations in the automatic exchange of bank information.

### **Tax Rates of Global Billionaires:**

- Global billionaires exhibit effective tax rates ranging from 0% to 0.5% of their wealth.
- US billionaires have a 0.5% effective tax rate, while French billionaires enjoy a tax rate of zero.

### **Profit Shifting by MNCs:**

- MNCs shifted approximately USD 1 trillion to tax havens in 2022, equivalent to 35% of profits earned outside their headquarters countries.
- The report warns against 'Greenwashing the Global Minimum Tax,' allowing MNCs to use green tax credits to lower tax rates below the 15% minimum.

### **Policy Choices Impact:**

- Tax evasion and wealth concealment result from policy choices or the lack thereof, emphasizing the need to assess and improve tax policies.

## **Recommendations**

### **Global Minimum Tax on Billionaires:**

- Proposes a 2% wealth tax on global billionaires to boost government revenues, address wealth inequality, and fund essential services.

### **Reform of International Corporate Taxation:**

- Urges reforming the international agreement on minimum corporate taxation, advocating a 25% rate and eliminating loopholes fostering tax competition.

### **Unilateral Measures:**

- Recommends implementing unilateral measures to collect tax deficits from multinational companies and billionaires if global agreements falter.

### **Global Asset Registry:**

- Calls for the creation of a Global Asset Registry to enhance efforts against tax evasion.

### **Strengthening Rules:**

- Advocates strengthening economic substance and anti-abuse rules.

## **Government Measures to Curb Tax Evasion**

- E-Invoicing
- Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018
- Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015
- Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.



## NEWS

# INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OUTLOOK 2023

## Why in News?

- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) recently released the International Migration Outlook 2023, providing insights into global migration patterns and trends.

## Highlights of the Report

### **India Leading Migration to OECD Countries:**

- In both 2021 and 2022, India emerged as the primary source of migration to OECD countries, surpassing China. With 0.41 million new migrants in each year, India led the list, while China had 0.23 million new migrants, and Romania followed with approximately 200,000 new migrants.

### **Climate-Induced Displacement and Policy Responses:**

- The report emphasized the growing focus on policy responses to climate-induced displacement. Few OECD countries have explicit policies addressing this issue.
- Noteworthy is Colombia's pioneering bill introduced in April 2023, aiming to recognize and support climate-displaced individuals. It includes provisions for housing, healthcare, education, and a national register.

### **Record Refugee Inflows and Worker Migration:**

- The OECD region witnessed unprecedented refugee inflows due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, resulting in over 10 million people becoming internally displaced or refugees.
- Significant increases in worker migration were noted from India, Uzbekistan, and Turkey, making them prominent source countries alongside Ukraine.

### **Recent Trends in International Migration:**

- The top four destination countries (United States, Germany, United Kingdom, and Spain) experienced substantial year-on-year increases ranging from 21% to 35%. Canada, the fifth destination country, saw an 8% increase.
- The United States alone accounted for 1.05 million new permanent-type migrants, while the other four countries each received between 440,000 and 650,000 new migrants.

### **Permanent-Type Migration Categories:**

- Family migration remained the primary category for new permanent-type migrants in 2022, constituting 40% of all permanent-type migration, maintaining a relatively stable share over time.
- Labor migration's share increased, representing 21% of permanent-type migration in 2022, compared to 16% in 2019.
- Conversely, the share of free movement migration (within the EU-EFTA and between Australia and New Zealand) decreased from 28% in 2019 to 21% in 2022.

### **About OECD**

#### **Foundation:**

- Established in 1961, the OECD is an intergovernmental economic organization headquartered in Paris, France, comprising 38 member countries.
- The most recent additions are Colombia (April 2020) and Costa Rica (May 2021).

#### **Membership and India's Role:**

- While India is not a member, it remains a crucial economic partner with collaborative engagements.

#### **Key Reports and Indices:**

- The OECD is renowned for reports such as "Government at a Glance" and the "OECD Better Life Index," contributing to informed policy discussions globally.



## NEWS

# INTERCONNECTED DISASTER RISKS REPORT 2023

## Why in News?

- The release of the Interconnected Disaster Risks Report 2023 by the United Nations University- Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) has recently highlighted the global interdependence and the urgent need for preventive action to avert potential catastrophic consequences.

## Major Findings of the Interconnected Disaster Risks Report 2023

### Overview:

- The UN Interconnected Disaster Risks Report, an annual publication since 2021, analyses various disasters, illustrating their interconnections with each other and human actions.
- It introduces the concept of "risk tipping points," signifying moments when socio-ecological systems become vulnerable to catastrophic impacts.

### Environmental Tipping Points:

#### Groundwater Depletion:

- Over 21 major aquifers worldwide are depleting faster than recharge rates, posing challenges for over 2 billion people, with critical implications for food security.
- Examples include Saudi Arabia, which depleted over 80% of its aquifer, impacting agriculture.

**Accelerating Species Extinctions:**

- Human activities such as land use changes and climate changes are accelerating species extinction rates, triggering ecosystem collapses.

**Mountain Glacier Melting:**

- Glaciers, vital water sources, are melting at double the rate due to global warming, with significant implications for regions like the Himalayas and millions dependent on them.

**Space Debris:**

- Growing satellites in space pose debris risks, with about 130 million untrackable debris pieces, creating a hazardous orbital environment.

**Unbearable Heat:**

- Climate change induces deadly heat waves, with wet-bulb temperatures exceeding survivability thresholds, affecting over 70% of the global population by 2100.

**Uninsurable Future:**

- Frequent severe weather events have led to a sevenfold increase in damages since the 1970s, making insurance unaffordable for many and rendering regions labelled "uninsurable."

**Interconnectedness and Climate Change:**

- Climate change, fuelled by increased greenhouse gas emissions, acts as a common driver of tipping points, linking glacier melting, extreme weather events, and shifts in the insurance risk landscape.

**Major Drivers of Increasing Disaster Risks:****Urbanization:**

- Rapid, unplanned urbanization exposes more people and property to hazards, increasing vulnerability to disasters like floods and earthquakes.

**Environmental Degradation:**

- Deforestation, soil erosion, and pollution weaken ecosystems, amplifying the impacts of disasters.

**Inadequate Infrastructure:**

- Insufficiently built or maintained infrastructure contributes to economic and social losses during disasters.

**Poor Land Use Planning:**

- Inadequate land use planning results in settlements in high-risk areas, contributing to increased disaster exposure.

**Water Management Issues:**

- Mismanagement of water resources leads to droughts, water scarcity, and flooding with far-reaching consequences.

**Global Interconnectedness:**

- Global interconnections amplify the economic and social impact of disasters, making disruptions in one area have cascading effects globally.

**Solutions and Recommendations:**

- The report proposes a four-category framework for solutions:

**Avoid-Delay:**

- Prevent disasters by slowing them down with existing methods.

**Avoid-Transform:**

- Prevent disasters by making significant changes in current practices.

**Adapt-Delay:**

- Prepare to handle disasters by buying more time to respond.

**Adapt-Transform:**

- Make significant changes in how we operate to adapt to disasters.

**Initiatives for Disaster Risk Reduction:****Global Initiatives:**

- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
- The Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS)

**India's Initiatives:**

- Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure Society (CDRIS)
- National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)



## NEWS

# ASIAN GAMES 2023

## Why in News?

- The 19th Asian Games, originally scheduled for 2022 but held in 2023, concluded at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium in China, marking an extraordinary feat for India in terms of medal achievements. Hockey player PR Sreejesh led the Indian contingent at the parade of athletes, and preparations are now underway for the 20th Asian Games in Japan in 2027.

## Key Highlights of Asian Games 2023:

### Current Edition:

- The 19th Asian Games, 2022 (delayed due to covid) which is organised in Hangzhou, the People's Republic of China.
- Mascot: Congcong, Lainlian and Chenchen (Three sporty robots).
- 45 nations are participating in the event across 40 sports.
- e-Sports and Breakdancing has been introduced as new sports in the event.
- The People's Republic of China came top at the medal tally with 383 medals (201 gold, 111 silver and 71 bronze).
- Upcoming Editions: Japan (2027). Qatar (2030), Saudi Arabia (2034).

## **India's Milestones:**

### **Medals Tally:**

- India achieved an unprecedented milestone, securing a remarkable tally of 107 medals (28 gold, 38 silver, and 41 bronze) in Hangzhou, China.
- This year India was represented by 655 athletes in 41 different disciplines.
- This historic achievement surpassed India's performance in the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, where they returned with 70 medals, including 16 golds.
- India became the fourth country, following China, Japan, and South Korea, to surpass the 100-medal mark in a single edition of the Asian Games.

### **Athletes Performance:**

- Athletics emerged as the most productive sport for India, contributing 29 medals (six gold, 14 silver, and nine bronze).
- Hockey:
  - The Indian men's hockey team secured a gold medal and earned a coveted spot in the Paris Olympics with a commanding 5-1 victory over Japan.

## **Introduction of New Sports:**

- The 2023 Asian Games witnessed the debut of two medal sports: e-Sports and Breakdancing.
- Additionally, Cricket and traditional board games, including Go, Xiangqi, and Chess, made a return to the Asian Games after being absent in the 2018 edition.

## **What are the Asian Games?**

### **About:**

- The Asian Games stands as the premier sports competition in Asia, occurring once every four years, symbolized by the rising sun with interlocking rings.
- Recognized by the International Olympic Committee.
- It is regulated by the Olympic Council of India.

### **Background and Inauguration:**

- Conceived after World War II, the idea was proposed by the Indian International Olympic Committee to create a sporting event for all Asian nations.
- The inaugural Asian Games took place in New Delhi in 1951.
- The 9th Asian Games were also held in New Delhi in 1982.

## **Regulation:**

- Initially regulated by the Asian Games Federation until 1978, the Olympic Council of Asia has overseen the Asian Games since 1982.

## **India as a Host:**

- India, a founding member, hosted the inaugural Asian Games in New Delhi in 1951 and also organized the 9th edition in 1982.
- Appu, the Indian elephant, became the first mascot in Asian Games history.



## NEWS

# FORMER NAVY PERSONNEL SENTENCED TO DEATH IN QATAR

## Why in the News?

- A recent development in Qatar involves the sentencing of eight former Indian Navy personnel to death on espionage charges. This has raised diplomatic concerns and legal considerations for India.

## Background of the Case:

### Accusations:

- The individuals, employed by Al Dahra in Doha, faced accusations of breaching sensitive secrets related to the production of advanced Italian-origin submarines.
- Specific charges against them have not been disclosed by Qatari authorities.

### Previous Trials:

- Two trials occurred in March and June 2023, with a veil of secrecy maintained around the case.
- India has expressed shock and concern, exploring legal options for their release.

### Diplomatic Implications:

- The verdict may strain India-Qatar relations, impacting the significant Indian migrant community and contributing to diplomatic and economic ties.
- Over seven lakh Indians in Qatar hold key roles, making substantial contributions in various sectors.



- Remittances from the Indian expatriate community to India amount to approximately \$750 million annually.
- This case represents a potential crisis in the historically stable India-Qatar relationship, with strategic and economic dimensions.

**Options for India:**

**Diplomatic Options:**

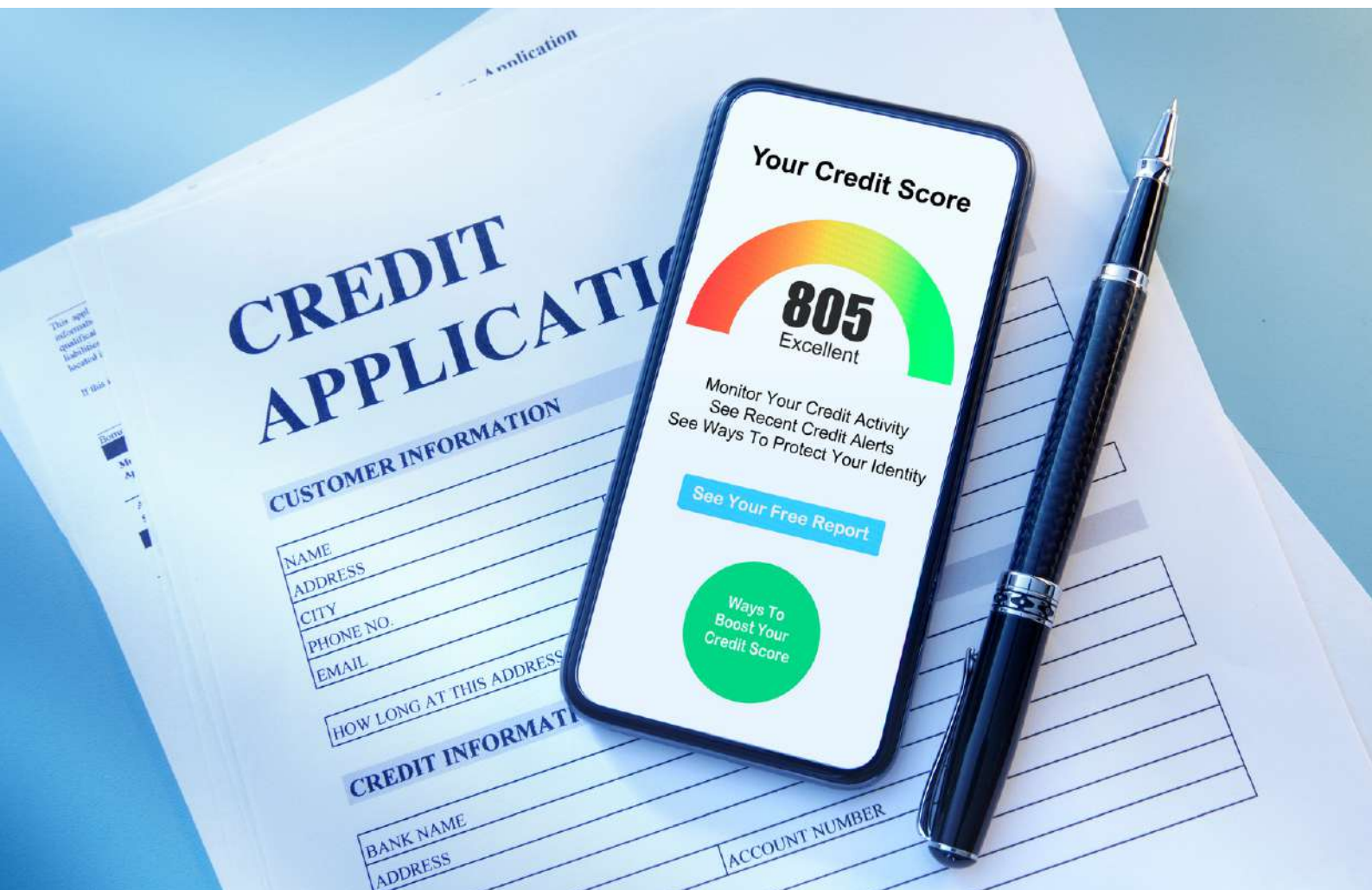
- Direct negotiations with Qatar to seek a resolution.
- Leveraging diplomatic pressure to prevent the death penalty.
- Exploring a 2015 agreement for the transfer of convicted prisoners.
- Global engagement through NGOs and civil society, potentially involving the United Nations.

**Legal Options:**

- Filing appeals within the Qatari legal system.
- Providing legal representation to detainees for a robust appeal process.
- Invoking the International Court of Justice (ICJ) jurisdiction if due procedures are not followed.

**India's Past Involvement with ICJ:**

- Instances include the Kulbhushan Jadhav case, disputes with Pakistan, and obligations concerning nuclear disarmament.



## NEWS

# GREEN CREDIT PROGRAM

## Why in News?

- The government has introduced an innovative Green Credit program, a voluntary initiative rewarding individuals and entities for environmentally positive actions, aligning with the broader 'LiFE' campaign (Lifestyle for Environment).

## What is Green Credit?

### Definition:

- A unit of incentive for positive environmental impact, voluntarily offered to encourage sustainable practices.
- An integral part of the 'LiFE' campaign, promoting a voluntary commitment to environmentally positive actions.

### Covered Activities:

- Encompasses activities like tree plantation, water management, sustainable agriculture, waste management, air pollution reduction, and mangrove conservation.
- Part of the broader 'LiFE' campaign fostering a voluntary commitment to environmentally positive actions.

### **Earning and Calculation of Green Credit:**

#### **Process:**

- Participants register their environmental activities on a dedicated website.
- Activities undergo verification by a designated agency.
- A certificate of Green Credit is granted based on the agency's report.

#### **Calculation:**

- Determined by factors such as resource requirements, scale, scope, and size to achieve desired environmental outcomes.

#### **Registry and Trading Platform:**

- A Green Credit Registry tracks and manages earned credits.
- The administrator establishes a trading platform for domestic Green Credit transactions.

#### **Independence from Carbon Credits:**

- Operates independently of the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023, governed by the Energy Conservation Act of 2001.
- While distinct, an environmental activity earning Green Credits may also yield climate co-benefits, potentially leading to carbon credit acquisition.

### **Concerns Regarding Green Credit Programme:**

#### **Verification Complexity:**

- Concerns about the intricate and time-consuming verification process.
- Potential administrative burdens on both participants and regulatory bodies.

#### **Risk of Greenwashing:**

- The risk of greenwashing, where participants falsely claim eco-friendly activities to earn Green Credits without genuine environmental contributions.

#### **Compatibility with Carbon Credits:**

- Concerns about potential overlaps and complexities in evaluating both Green and Carbon Credits.

#### **Regional Differences:**

- Challenges in accounting for regional variations in environmental impact, hindering the establishment of uniform credit values.

### **Conclusion:**

- Advancing the Green Credit Mechanism requires a comprehensive approach focusing on standardization, transparency, regional customization, and regulatory oversight. Prioritizing sustainability and public awareness, the program aligns with UN Sustainable Development Goals, notably SDG 12, 13, and 15.



## NEWS

# SDG SUMMIT 2023

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## Why in News?

- Global leaders expressed concern over the sluggish pace of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during the recent SDG Summit held in New York, USA.

## Key Highlights of the SDG Summit 2023:

### **Funding Gap Acknowledgment:**

- The annual SDG funding gap, initially at USD 2.5 trillion pre-pandemic, has surged to USD 4.2 trillion.
- Urgent calls for significant investments to bridge this gap and meet the SDGs.

### **Addressing Finance Challenges:**

- Emphasis on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) for efficient use of financial flows, both public and private.
- Urgent implementation of the UN Secretary-General's proposal for an SDG stimulus, suggesting a yearly increase of USD 500 billion.

### **Multilateral Actions and Debt Swaps:**

- Leaders advocated multilateral actions, focusing on coordinating all creditors.
- Stress on scaling up Debt Swaps for SDGs, including climate and nature-related debt swaps.

**Impact of Covid-19:**

- Recognition that the pandemic disproportionately affected SDGs, especially in vulnerable nations.
- Calls for an emergency course correction to hasten SDG progress.
- Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction:
- Reaffirmation of commitment to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Pledges to intensify climate change efforts, and operationalize finance arrangements for loss and damage, aligning with climate goals.

**Commitment to the 2030 Agenda:**

- Despite challenges like poverty, forced relocations, disparities, and climate impacts, leaders recommitted to fully implementing the 2030 Agenda and all 17 SDGs.

**Concerns Related to SDG Progress:**

**Lack of Progress and Commitment:**

- Progress towards the 169 targets of the 17 SDGs is only at 15%, with concerns about the second half of the commitment period.

**Funding Adequacy and Accessibility:**

- The estimated investment gap exceeds USD 4 trillion, raising doubts about funding sufficiency and accessibility, especially for the energy transition.

**Dis-synergies and Barriers:**

- Identified dis-synergies and barriers, including resource allocation, enabling environments, co-benefits, cost-effectiveness, and saturation limits.

**Challenges in Policy Implementation:**

- Inconsistencies and misalignment in policy implementation, hindering renewable energy and small-scale applications.

**Climate Change and Environmental Impact:**

- Climate change poses a severe threat to SDG targets, with rising greenhouse gas emissions globally.



## NEWS

# ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT AND GLOBAL IMPACT

### Why in News?

- The Israel-Hamas conflict has intensified with Israel's ground offensive in Gaza, prompting concerns about its aftermath and global repercussions.

### History of Attack

- **The Al-Aqsa Storm:** Also known as 'Al-Aqsa Flood', Operation 'Al-Aqsa Storm' is a military operation led by a surprise attack on Israel by Hamas on October 7, 2023.
- The attack involved firing thousands of rockets at occupied territories, including enemy positions, airports, and military positions.
- A major factor in this conflict could be the presence of Shiite Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

### Three Possible Scenarios and Their Effects:

#### **Limited Conflict in Gaza:**

- Potential Effects:
  - Limited direct impact on the global economy.
  - Humanitarian crisis escalation in Gaza with significant casualties.

### **Regional Conflict with Iran-backed Militants:**

- Potential Effects:
  - Broader regional conflict leading to increased instability.
  - Oil prices rising to mid-USD 90s per barrel.
  - Global inflation and potential dent in economic growth by 0.3% points.

### **Full-scale War Involving Major Powers:**

- Potential Effects:
  - Disruption of trade and global crude oil supply in the Middle East.
  - Crude oil prices potentially reaching USD 150 per barrel.
  - Global inflation rising to about 6.7% in 2024.
  - Possible worldwide recession with significant implications.

### **About Hamas:**

- **Formation:** Founded in 1987 as a Palestinian political armed group.
- **History:** Emerged as a resistance movement against Israeli occupation.
- **Ideology:** Rejects any compromise on the complete liberation of Palestine.
- **Designation:** Designated a terror organization by the U.S. since 1997, with similar designations by Israel and most of Europe.

### **About Hezbollah:**

- It means '**Party of God**', is a Shiite Islamic militant organisation from Lebanon.
- Originated during the **Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990)**, which was a result of "long-simmering discontent over the large, armed Palestinian presence in the country".
- Role in conflict: It opposes Israel and Western influence in West Asia.
- It has also, along with Russia and Iran, supported the regime of President Bashar al-Assad in neighbouring Syria during its civil war.
- The US estimates that Iran supplies hundreds of millions of dollars in funding to Hezbollah and that it has thousands of fighters.

# Most Important Questions

## For CLAT, AILET and OLETs

### Passage 1:

1. What does the Global Hunger Index (GHI) score range from, where 0 implies no hunger and 100 is the worst score?

- (a) 0 to 50
- (b) 0 to 75
- (c) 0 to 100
- (d) 50 to 100

2. Who publishes the Global Hunger Index (GHI) annually?

- (a) United Nations
- (b) World Health Organization
- (c) Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe
- (d) International Red Cross

3. What is India's GHI score in 2023, and how is it classified on the Severity of Hunger Scale?

- (a) 25.3; Moderate
- (b) 28.7; Serious
- (c) 32.1; Alarming
- (d) 22.5; Low

4. What is the global GHI score in 2023, and how is it classified?

- (a) 10.5; Low
- (b) 18.3; Moderate
- (c) 25.0; Serious
- (d) 32.7; Alarming

5. Which country is ranked at the top for low hunger levels in the GHI 2023?

- (a) Belarus
- (b) Chile
- (c) China
- (d) Bosnia & Herzegovina

6. What percentage of child stunting is reported in India according to the GHI 2023?

- (a) 20.8%
- (b) 25.5%
- (c) 35.5%
- (d) 42.2%

7. According to the Indian government, what criticism did they raise regarding the GHI 2023 report?

- (a) Political bias
- (b) Methodological issues and malafide intent
- (c) Lack of transparency
- (d) Incomplete data

8. How did the Indian government emphasize its response to the GHI 2023, focusing on child health?

- (a) Three out of four GHI indicators pertain to children's health
- (b) One indicator relates to children's health
- (c) Two indicators pertain to children's health
- (d) All indicators relate to children's health



**9. What is one of the complex factors mentioned by the Indian government responsible for indicators like stunting and wasting?**

- (a) Genetic factors**
- (b) Economic disparities**
- (c) Environment**
- (d) Lack of healthcare**

**10. What fundamental determinants of hunger in India are highlighted in the data?**

- (a) Lack of education**
- (b) Widespread poverty and socioeconomic disparities**
- (c) Lack of infrastructure**
- (d) Poor agricultural practices**

**11. What term is used to describe India's severe micronutrient deficiency due to poor diet, diseases, and failure to meet micronutrient needs?**

- (a) Malnutrition**
- (b) Nutrient Deprivation**
- (c) Hidden Hunger**
- (d) Macro-nutrient Deficiency**

**12. How do inefficiencies in agriculture contribute to insufficient food availability in India?**

- (a) Over-reliance on traditional farming methods**
- (b) Inadequate government support**
- (c) Suboptimal crop yields and post-harvest losses**
- (d) Lack of irrigation facilities**

**13. What exacerbates hunger in India, with women and girls facing unequal access to food?**

- (a) Gender Equality**
- (b) Economic factors**
- (c) Gender Inequality**
- (d) Educational disparities**

**14. What disrupts agricultural production in India, causing food scarcity, according to the data?**

- (a) Technological advancements**
- (b) Political instability**
- (c) Climate Change**
- (d) Lack of government policies**

**15. What hinders the effectiveness of various nutritional programs in India, according to the data?**

- (a) Lack of awareness**
- (b) Lack of audit mechanisms at the local governance level**
- (c) Inadequate funding**
- Insufficient participation**

**Passage 2:**

**1. What was the Supreme Court's verdict on same-sex marriages in the case deciding on the marriage rights of the other gender communities?**

- (a) In favor of legalizing same-sex marriages**
- (b) Ruled against granting constitutional validity**
- (c) Suggested amending the Special Marriage Act**
- (d) Recognized same-sex unions as a fundamental right**

**2. Which act was extensively explored in the Supreme Court's judgment on same-sex marriages?**

- (a) Indian Penal Code (IPC)**
- (b) Hindu Marriage Act**
- (c) Special Marriage Act, 1954**
- (d) Indian Contract Act**

**3. According to the Supreme Court, what falls within the domain of the Parliament regarding same-sex marriages?**

- (a) Granting constitutional validity**
- (b) Amendment of the Special Marriage Act**
- (c) Recognition of fundamental right to marry**
- (d) Creating separate marriage laws**

**4. What is the status of marriage under the Indian Constitution, according to the Supreme Court's observation?**

- (a) Fundamental right**
- (b) Constitutional right**
- (c) Statutory right**
- (d) Civil right**

**5. In which case did the Supreme Court affirm that the right to marry a person of one's choice is intrinsic to Article 21?**

- (a) Navjet Singh Johar case**
- (b) Shafin Jahan case**
- (c) Supriyo v Union of India**
- (d) Special Marriage Act case**

**6. What is the primary purpose of the Special Marriage Act, 1954?**

- (a) To regulate Hindu marriages**
- (b) To provide civil marriage for Indians and Indian nationals abroad**
- (c) To govern marriages under personal laws**
- (d) To prohibit inter-religious marriages**

**7. According to the Supreme Court, what is cohabitation considered in the context of same-sex unions?**

- (a) Fundamental right**
- (b) Constitutional duty**
- (c) Legal obligation**
- (d) Moral responsibility**

**8. What argument supports same-sex marriage by emphasizing equal legal rights and protections?**

- (a) Strengthening Families**
- (b) Procreation**
- (c) Equal Rights and Protection**
- (d) Adoption Concerns**

**9. What is the primary concern related to procreation raised against same-sex marriage?**

- (a) Legal Issues**
- (b) Adoption Concerns**
- (c) Religious and Cultural Beliefs**
- (d) Procreation**

**10. What argument against same-sex marriage is based on the belief that marriage should conform to traditional definitions?**

- (a) Equal Rights and Protection**
- (b) Strengthening Families**
- (c) Religious and Cultural Beliefs**
- (d) Adoption Concerns**

**11. Which global trend does the argument "Many countries globally allow same-sex marriage, aligning with democratic principles" support?**

- (a) Cultural conservatism**
- (b) Religious pluralism**
- (c) Global acceptance**
- (d) Traditional values**

**12. What does the Special Marriage Act liberate individuals from?**

- (a) Gender restrictions**
- (b) Age restrictions**
- (c) Traditional marriage requirements**
- (d) Religious practices**

**13. What is the name of the case on which Supreme Court rejected the demand for marriage rights to same sex couples?**

- (a) Supriyo v Union of India**
- (b) Civil Union v Naz Foundation**
- (c) Navjot Singh Johar v Union Of India**
- (d) Shreya Singhal v Union Of India**

**14. What is the primary objection based on legal concerns against same-sex marriage?**

- (a) Adoption Concerns**
- (b) Religious and Cultural Beliefs**
- (c) Procreation**
- (d) Legal Issues**

**15. In the context of same-sex unions, what did the Supreme Court emphasize the government's obligation to recognize?**

- (a) Religious practices**
- (b) Social impact of cohabitation**
- (c) Cultural values**
- (d) Traditional marriage norms**

**Passage 3:**

**1. What is the significance of the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act recently passed by the Government?**

- (a) It establishes a new committee on women's status
- (b) It provides for 1/3 seats reserved for women in Lok Sabha and State legislative assemblies
- (c) It introduces a reservation system for women in private corporations
- (d) It grants special privileges to women in the judiciary

**2. When was the bill for reserving 1/3 seats for women in Lok Sabha and State legislative assemblies first introduced?**

- (a) 1996
- (b) 2009
- (c) 2014
- (d) 2019

**3. Which committee was responsible for examining the status of women in India in 1971?**

- (a) Committee on the status of women in 2013
- (b) Committee under Margaret Alva in 1987
- (c) Geeta Mukherjee Committee in 1996
- (d) Committee on the Status of Women in India in 1971

**4. Which articles were inserted into the Constitution by the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act to provide reservation for women?**

- (a) Article 330A and Article 332A
- (b) Article 239AA and Article 334A
- (c) Article 330B and Article 332B
- (d) Article 239BB and Article 334B

**5. When does the reservation for women become effective according to the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act?**

- (a) Immediately upon passing the amendment
- (b) After the next general election
- (c) After delimitation is undertaken and Census is conducted
- (d) It is not specified in the act

**6. How long is the reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State legislative assemblies provided under the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act?**

- (a) 5 years
- (b) 10 years
- (c) 15 years (can be extended)
- (d) 20 years

**7. What is the rationale mentioned in the passage for the rotation of reserved seats after every delimitation?**

- (a) To address political underrepresentation
- (b) To ensure equal representation for all communities
- (c) To prevent the concentration of power
- (d) To promote regional diversity

**8. How many women Members of Parliament (MPs) are there in the Lok Sabha according to the passage?**

- (a) 82
- (b) 106
- (c) 123
- (d) 150

**9. What percentage of women MPs is there in the Lok Sabha, as mentioned in the passage?**

- (a) 9%
- (b) 13%
- (c) 15.2%
- (d) 20%

**10. In which state legislative assemblies did the Geeta Mukherjee Committee recommend reservations for women in 1996?**

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Karnataka

- 11. What is the primary reason mentioned in the passage for the need for the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act?**
- (a) Social justice**
  - (b) Economic development**
  - (c) Political underrepresentation of women**
  - (d) National security concerns**
- 12. According to the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act, who will oversee the rotation of reserved seats?**
- (a) President of India**
  - (b) Election Commission**
  - (c) Committee on the Status of Women**
  - (d) Delimitation Commission**
- 13. Which article provides for the reservation of seats for women in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi?**
- (a) Article 330A**
  - (b) Article 332A**
  - (c) Article 239AA**
  - (d) Article 334A**
- 14. What is the key feature of the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act regarding the time period for reservations for women?**
- (a) Permanent reservations**
  - (b) 10 years with no extension**
  - (c) 15 years with the possibility of extension**
  - (d) 20 years with mandatory extension**
- 15. How frequently does the rotation of reserved seats take place, according to the information in the passage?**
- (a) After every general election**
  - (b) After every state election**
  - (c) After every delimitation in the country**
  - (d) After every census conducted**

**Passage 4:**

**1. What is the main focus of the 'Global Tax Evasion Report 2024' released by the European Union Tax Observatory?**

- (a) Strategies for tax evasion
- (b) International reforms combating tax evasion
- (c) Global billionaires' spending habits
- (d) Government measures against tax evasion

**2. How does the report define tax evasion?**

- (a) Legal methods to reduce tax liability
- (b) Fraudulent practices to diminish tax liability
- (c) Ethical financial planning
- (d) Corporate tax avoidance

**3. What is the aim of the Global Minimum Tax (GMT) mentioned in the report?**

- (a) To apply a maximum tax rate globally
- (b) To establish a standard minimum tax rate globally
- (c) To exempt multinational corporations from taxes
- (d) To target individual taxpayers with high incomes

**4. According to the OECD's proposal, what is the suggested corporate minimum tax rate on foreign profits of large multinationals?**

- (a) 5%
- (b) 10%
- (c) 15%
- (d) 20%

**5. In 2021, how many countries, including India, endorsed the minimum global tax rate of 15% for multinational corporations?**

- (a) 50
- (b) 100
- (c) 136
- (d) 200

**6. What is the purpose of the Automatic Exchange of Information introduced in 2017?**

- (a) To promote offshore tax evasion
- (b) To facilitate the automatic exchange of bank information internationally
- (c) To encourage tax havens
- (d) To conceal wealth

**7. What challenges persist in curbing offshore tax evasion, as mentioned in the report?**

- (a) Lack of international cooperation
- (b) Non-compliance by offshore financial institutions
- (c) Strict regulations
- (d) A decrease in tax evasion

**8. What effective tax rates do global billionaires exhibit, according to the report?**

- (a) 1% to 1.5%
- (b) 0.5% to 1%
- (c) 0% to 0.5%
- (d) 1.5% to 2%

**9. In 2022, how much did MNCs shift to tax havens, as mentioned in the report?**

- (a) USD 500 million
- (b) USD 1 trillion
- (c) USD 100 billion
- (d) USD 50 billion

**10. What is the report's warning regarding the 'Greenwashing the Global Minimum Tax'?**

- (a) MNCs should invest in green technologies
- (b) MNCs might use green tax credits to lower tax rates below the 15% minimum
- (c) Global Minimum Tax is not effective for environmental protection
- (d) Governments should prioritize green taxation

**11. According to the recommendations, what does the report propose as a wealth tax on global billionaires?**

- (a) 1%**
- (b) 2%**
- (c) 3%**
- (d) 4%**

**12. What does the report urge in terms of international corporate taxation reform?**

- (a) Maintaining the current system**
- (b) Advocating for a 15% tax rate**
- (c) Reforming the international agreement on minimum corporate taxation with a 25% rate**
- (d) Eliminating taxes for multinational corporations**

**13. What does the report recommend if global agreements on tax deficits from multinational companies and billionaires falter?**

- (a) Implementing unilateral measures**
- (b) Reducing tax rates globally**
- (c) Establishing tax havens**
- (d) Ignoring the issue**

**14. What is the suggested measure for enhancing efforts against tax evasion, according to the report?**

- (a) Strengthening economic substance and anti-abuse rules**
- (b) Reducing tax rates**
- (c) Introducing tax incentives**
- (d) Ignoring tax evasion issues**

**15. Which government measures are mentioned in the passage as tools to curb tax evasion?**

- (a) E-Invoicing**
- (b) Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018**
- (c) Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015**
- (d) All of the above**

**Passage 5:**

**1. Which organization recently released the International Migration Outlook 2023?**

- (a) United Nations
- (b) International Organization for Migration
- (c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- (d) World Bank

**2. According to the report, which country emerged as the primary source of migration to OECD countries in both 2021 and 2022?**

- (a) China
- (b) Romania
- (c) India
- (d) Uzbekistan

**3. What policy issue related to migration did the report emphasize as gaining increased attention?**

- (a) Labor migration
- (b) Family migration
- (c) Climate-induced displacement
- (d) Free movement migration

**4. In April 2023, which country introduced a pioneering bill recognizing and supporting climate-displaced individuals?**

- (a) Spain
- (b) India
- (c) Colombia
- (d) United States

**5. What was the significant driver of unprecedented refugee inflows in the OECD region, according to the report?**

- (a) Economic factors
- (b) Climate change
- (c) Russia-Ukraine conflict
- (d) Internal conflicts in OECD countries

**6. Which countries experienced substantial year-on-year increases in migration, ranging from 21% to 35%, according to the report?**

- (a) Russia, China, India, and Brazil
- (b) United States, Germany, United Kingdom, and Spain
- (c) Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and France
- (d) Turkey, Colombia, Romania, and Uzbekistan

**7. Among the top five destination countries, which country accounted for the highest number of new permanent-type migrants?**

- (a) Germany
- (b) United States
- (c) United Kingdom
- (d) Canada

**8. What migration category constituted the primary category for new permanent-type migrants in 2022?**

- (a) Labor migration
- (b) Free movement migration
- (c) Family migration
- (d) Refugee migration

**9. How did the share of labor migration change from 2019 to 2022, according to the report?**

- (a) Decreased from 28% to 21%
- (b) Increased from 16% to 21%
- (c) Remained constant at 16%
- (d) Increased from 21% to 28%

**10. When was the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) established?**

- (a) 1950
- (b) 1961
- (c) 1975
- (d) 1988



- 11. How many member countries does the OECD currently have?**
- (a) 20**
  - (b) 30**
  - (c) 38**
  - (d) 50**
- 12. Which country is the most recent addition to the OECD, joining in April 2020?**
- (a) Colombia**
  - (b) Costa Rica**
  - (c) India**
  - (d) France**
- 13. What is India's status in the OECD?**
- (a) Member country**
  - (b) Observer**
  - (c) Partner with collaborative engagements**
  - (d) Non-member with no engagements**
- 14. What are two key reports mentioned in the passage that the OECD is renowned for?**
- (a) World Economic Outlook and Global Migration Trends**
  - (b) Government at a Glance and OECD Better Life Index**
  - (c) Global Poverty Report and International Labor Standards**
  - (d) Climate Change Assessment and Sustainable Development Index**
- 15. In terms of migration, what role does India play with the OECD, as mentioned in the passage?**
- (a) Primary source of migration**
  - (b) Observer status**
  - (c) Collaborative economic partner**
  - (d) Member country with active engagements**

**Passage 6:**

**1. What organization released the Interconnected Disaster Risks Report 2023?**

- (a) World Health Organization**
- (b) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**
- (c) United Nations University- Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)**
- (d) International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

**2. According to the report, what concept does it introduce to signify moments when socio-ecological systems become vulnerable to catastrophic impacts?**

- (a) Disaster thresholds**
- (b) Interconnected disaster points**
- (c) Risk tipping points**
- (d) Catastrophic junctions**

**3. What environmental issue is highlighted in the report as a result of over 21 major aquifers depleting faster than recharge rates?**

- (a) Accelerating species extinctions**
- (b) Groundwater depletion**
- (c) Mountain glacier melting**
- (d) Unbearable heat**

**4. Which country is mentioned in the report as having depleted over 80% of its aquifer, impacting agriculture?**

- (a) China**
- (b) India**
- (c) Saudi Arabia**
- (d) Brazil**

**5. What human activities are identified in the report as accelerating species extinction rates and triggering ecosystem collapses?**

- (a) Industrialization and urbanization**
- (b) Land use changes and climate changes**
- (c) Agricultural practices and deforestation**
- (d) Water pollution and air pollution**

**6. What is identified as a significant risk in space due to growing satellites, according to the report?**

- (a) Asteroid collisions**
- (b) Space debris**
- (c) Solar flares**
- (d) Space weather**

**7. How does climate change contribute to the risk of deadly heat waves, according to the report?**

- (a) By increasing rainfall**
- (b) By reducing greenhouse gas emissions**
- (c) By inducing wet-bulb temperatures exceeding survivability thresholds**
- (d) By promoting snowfall in high-temperature regions**

**8. What has led to a sevenfold increase in damages since the 1970s, making insurance unaffordable for many regions?**

- (a) Decreased frequency of severe weather events**
- (b) Increased disaster preparedness**
- (c) Frequent severe weather events**
- (d) Improved infrastructure**

**9. What common driver links glacier melting, extreme weather events, and shifts in the insurance risk landscape, according to the report?**

- (a) Urbanization**
- (b) Environmental degradation**
- (c) Global interconnectedness**
- (d) Inadequate infrastructure**

**10. What does the report identify as a major driver of increasing disaster risks related to rapid, unplanned urbanization?**

- (a) Urban resilience**
- (b) Economic growth**
- (c) Environmental degradation**
- (d) Increased disaster preparedness**

**11. According to the report, what contributes to economic and social losses during disasters related to infrastructure?**

- (a) Inadequate land use planning**
- (b) Poor water management**
- (c) Environmental degradation**
- (d) Insufficiently built or maintained infrastructure**

**12. What framework for solutions does the report propose to address interconnected disaster risks?**

- (a) Three-category framework**
- (b) Five-category framework**
- (c) Four-category framework**
- (d) Two-category framework**

**13. Which initiative is mentioned in the report as a global initiative for disaster risk reduction?**

- (a) National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)**
- (b) Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure Society (CDRIS)**
- (c) Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**
- (d) Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS)**

**14. What is the purpose of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure Society (CDRIS) mentioned in the passage?**

- (a) To provide insurance for disaster-prone regions**
- (b) To enhance global interconnectedness**
- (c) To reduce the impact of disasters on infrastructure**
- (d) To promote urbanization in disaster-prone areas**

**15. Which country is mentioned as having initiatives such as the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) for disaster risk reduction?**

- (a) China**
- (b) India**
- (c) United States**
- (d) Brazil**

**Passage 7:**

**1. What was the mascot of the 19th Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China?**

- (a) Appu
- (b) Congcong, Lainlian, and Chenchen
- (c) Soohorang
- (d) Vichu

**2. How many nations participated in the 19th Asian Games across 40 sports?**

- (a) 35
- (b) 40
- (c) 45
- (d) 50

**3. Which country topped the medal tally at the 19th Asian Games in 2023?**

- (a) Japan
- (b) India
- (c) South Korea
- (d) China

**4. In which sport did the Indian men's hockey team secure a gold medal at the Asian Games, earning a spot in the Paris Olympics?**

- (a) Football
- (b) Badminton
- (c) Hockey
- (d) Athletics

**5. How many medals did India achieve in total at the 19th Asian Games?**

- (a) 70
- (b) 90
- (c) 107
- (d) 120

**6. Which discipline contributed the most medals for India at the 19th Asian Games?**

- (a) Badminton
- (b) Athletics
- (c) Swimming
- (d) Archery

**7. What was the historic achievement for India in terms of the medal tally at the 19th Asian Games?**

- (a) Surpassing China in the medal tally
- (b) Exceeding 150 medals
- (c) Securing more than 50 gold medals
- (d) Surpassing 100 medals in a single edition

**8. In which year is Japan scheduled to host the upcoming edition of the Asian Games?**

- (a) 2025
- (b) 2027
- (c) 2030
- (d) 2034

**9. Which two sports made their debut as medal sports in the 2023 Asian Games?**

- (a) Cricket and Swimming
- (b) e-Sports and Breakdancing
- (c) Archery and Gymnastics
- (d) Tennis and Table Tennis

**10. Which of the following board games made a return to the Asian Games in 2023 after being absent in the 2018 edition?**

- (a) Chess
- (b) Scrabble
- (c) Monopoly
- (d) Checkers

**11. In which city did the inaugural Asian Games take place in 1951?**

- (a) Tokyo
- (b) Beijing
- (c) Seoul
- (d) New Delhi

**12. Which organization regulates the Asian Games and is recognized by the International Olympic Committee?**

- (a) Asian Games Federation**
- (b) Olympic Council of Asia**
- (c) International Olympic Committee (IOC)**
- (d) United Nations**

**13. Who proposed the idea of creating a sporting event for all Asian nations after World War II?**

- (a) Olympic Council of Asia**
- (b) United Nations**
- (c) International Olympic Committee**
- (d) Indian International Olympic Committee**

**14. When was the first Asian Games held in New Delhi?**

- (a) 1951**
- (b) 1978**
- (c) 1982**
- (d) 1990**

**15. Which country hosted the 9th Asian Games in 1982?**

- (a) South Korea**
- (b) Japan**
- (c) China**
- (d) India**

**Passage 8:**

1. What is the primary goal of the Green Credit program introduced by the government?

- (a) To reward financial institutions for environmental initiatives
- (b) To encourage sustainable practices through incentives
- (c) To establish a carbon credit trading platform
- (d) To regulate environmental activities

2. Which campaign is the Green Credit program a part of, promoting voluntary commitment to environmentally positive actions?

- (a) Greenwashing Initiative
- (b) LiFE Campaign
- (c) Carbon Credit Scheme
- (d) Sustainable Practices Movement

3. What activities are covered under the Green Credit program to earn environmental incentives?

- (a) Financial investments in green projects
- (b) Wildlife conservation programs
- (c) Tree plantation, water management, and air pollution reduction
- (d) Industrial emissions reduction initiatives

4. How is the Green Credit calculated for environmental activities?

- (a) Based on the participants' financial contributions
- (b) Determined by the size and scale of the activities
- (c) Linked to the market value of carbon credits
- (d) Calculated through government subsidies

5. What is the purpose of the Green Credit Registry?

- (a) To track and manage carbon credits
- (b) To monitor participants' financial transactions
- (c) To establish a trading platform for international credits
- (d) To track and manage earned Green Credits

6. How does the Green Credit program differ from the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023?

- (a) It operates independently and focuses on different environmental activities.
- (b) It is a subset of the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme.
- (c) It exclusively deals with financial institutions.
- (d) It is governed by the Energy Conservation Act of 2001.

7. What is the potential risk associated with the Green Credit program in terms of participant behavior?

- (a) Increased administrative burdens
- (b) Greenwashing, or false claims of eco-friendly activities
- (c) Limited transparency in environmental reporting
- (d) Difficulty in calculating credit values

8. According to the passage, what could an environmental activity earning Green Credits potentially lead to?

- (a) Increased administrative burdens
- (b) Financial benefits for participants
- (c) Climate co-benefits and carbon credit acquisition
- (d) Incompatibility with the LiFE campaign

9. What is the primary concern regarding the verification process of environmental activities for Green Credits?

- (a) Lack of participant interest
- (b) Administrative burdens on regulatory bodies
- (c) Complexity and potential time consumption
- (d) Incompatibility with regional variations

10. Which Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) does the Green Credit program align with, according to the passage?

- (a) SDG 1, 2, and 3
- (b) SDG 7, 8, and 9
- (c) SDG 12, 13, and 15
- (d) SDG 17 and 18

**11. What aspect of the Green Credit program requires a comprehensive approach for advancement?**

- (a) Standardization, transparency, regional customization, and regulatory oversight**
- (b) Simplification and faster verification processes**
- (c) Exclusivity and limited participant engagement**
- (d) Reduction of financial incentives**

**12. In which year was the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023, governed by the Energy Conservation Act of 2001 introduced?**

- (a) 2001**
- (b) 2023**
- (c) 2010**
- (d) Not specified in the passage**

**13. Which organization oversees the Asian Games, according to the passage?**

- (a) United Nations**
- (b) Olympic Council of Asia**
- (c) Asian Games Federation**
- (d) International Olympic Committee**

**14. What was the mascot of the 19th Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China?**

- (a) Congcong, Lainlian, and Chenchen**
- (b) Soohorang**
- (c) Vichu**
- (d) Appu**

**15. In which city did the inaugural Asian Games take place in 1951?**

- (a) Tokyo**
- (b) Beijing**
- (c) Seoul**
- (d) New Delhi**

**Passage 9:**

**1. What is the current estimated annual funding gap for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) acknowledged during the SDG Summit?**

- (a) USD 2 trillion
- (b) USD 3 trillion
- (c) USD 4.2 trillion
- (d) USD 5 trillion

**2. What is the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) emphasized at the SDG Summit for addressing financial challenges related to the SDGs?**

- (a) A climate change action plan
- (b) A global health initiative
- (c) A financial framework for SDGs
- (d) A plan for poverty eradication

**3. How much yearly increase in funding does the UN Secretary-General propose as part of the SDG stimulus to address the funding gap?**

- (a) USD 100 billion
- (b) USD 250 billion
- (c) USD 500 billion
- (d) USD 1 trillion

**4. What multilateral action is advocated at the SDG Summit to coordinate all creditors and enhance Debt Swaps for SDGs?**

- (a) Regional investment partnerships
- (b) Bilateral financial agreements
- (c) Coordinated climate initiatives
- (d) Multilateral actions

**5. What framework for disaster risk reduction was reaffirmed at the SDG Summit?**

- (a) Paris Agreement
- (b) Kyoto Protocol
- (c) Sendai Framework
- (d) Marrakech Accords

**6. How much progress has been made towards the 169 targets of the 17 SDGs, as mentioned in the SDG Summit?**

- (a) 5%
- (b) 15%
- (c) 25%
- (d) 50%

**7. What is the estimated investment gap that raises doubts about funding sufficiency and accessibility for the SDGs, especially for the energy transition?**

- (a) USD 2 trillion
- (b) USD 3 trillion
- (c) USD 4 trillion
- (d) USD 5 trillion

**8. What challenges related to policy implementation are highlighted in the SDG Summit, hindering renewable energy and small-scale applications?**

- (a) Inconsistent funding
- (b) Resource allocation
- (c) Enabling environments
- (d) Technological barriers

**9. What is identified as a severe threat to SDG targets, with rising global emissions mentioned in the SDG Summit?**

- (a) Economic disparities
- (b) Political instability
- (c) Climate change
- (d) Social inequalities

**10. What is the primary commitment reaffirmed by global leaders at the SDG Summit despite challenges like poverty, forced relocations, and climate impacts?**

- (a) Implementation of the Sendai Framework
- (b) Full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and all 17 SDGs
- (c) Expansion of the Kyoto Protocol
- (d) A new global health initiative



**What is the estimated annual increase proposed by the UN Secretary-General as part of the SDG stimulus?**

- (a) USD 1 trillion**
- (b) USD 250 billion**
- (c) USD 500 billion**
- (d) USD 750 billion**

**12. In the context of SDGs, what does the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) focus on?**

- (a) Climate change adaptation**
- (b) Efficient use of financial flows**
- (c) Disaster risk reduction**
- (d) Poverty alleviation**

**13. What is the identified progress level towards the 169 targets of the 17 SDGs, according to the SDG Summit 2023?**

- (a) 30%**
- (b) 45%**
- (c) 15%**
- (d) 60%**

**14. What specific financial arrangement was emphasized for loss and damage related to climate change during the SDG Summit?**

- (a) Climate Bond Initiative**
- (b) Green Climate Fund**
- (c) Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS)**
- (d) Debt Swaps for SDGs**

**15. According to the SDG Summit, what is a major concern related to funding adequacy for SDGs, especially in the context of the energy transition?**

- (a) USD 1 trillion investment gap**
- (b) Lack of commitment from nations**
- (c) Accessibility issues**
- (d) Dis-synergies in policy implementation**

**Passage 10:**

**1. What is the military operation led by Hamas against Israel on October 7, 2023, known as?**

- (a) Operation Al-Aqsa Storm**
- (b) Operation Iron Dome**
- (c) Operation Gaza Offensive**
- (d) Operation Hezbollah Strike**

**2. In the context of the Israel-Hamas conflict, what is the major concern regarding the presence of Hezbollah?**

- (a) Humanitarian crisis in Gaza**
- (b) Global economic impact**
- (c) Broader regional conflict**
- (d) Oil price fluctuations**

**3. What are the potential effects of a limited conflict in Gaza on the global economy, according to the passage?**

- (a) Rising oil prices and global inflation**
- (b) Escalation of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza**
- (c) Disruption of trade and global crude oil supply**
- (d) Limited direct impact on the global economy**

**4. According to the passage, what is Hamas's ideology regarding the liberation of Palestine?**

- (a) Advocates compromise for peace**
- (b) Rejects any compromise**
- (c) Supports peaceful negotiations**
- (d) Has no clear stance on the issue**

**5. When was Hezbollah founded, and what role did it play during the Lebanese Civil War?**

- (a) Founded in 1975, played a role against Palestinian presence**
- (b) Founded in 1987, played a role in supporting Palestinians**
- (c) Founded in 1987, played no role in the Lebanese Civil War**
- (d) Founded in 1975, played a role against Israeli occupation**

**6. How does Hezbollah view Israel and Western influence in West Asia?**

- (a) Supports them**
- (b) Remains neutral**
- (c) Opposes them**
- (d) Has no clear stance**

**7. What is the U.S. designation of Hamas as mentioned in the passage?**

- (a) Political movement**
- (b) Humanitarian organization**
- (c) Terror organization**
- (d) Peaceful resistance group**

**8. What potential impact does a full-scale war involving major powers have on global inflation, according to the passage?**

- (a) Rising to about 6.7% in 2024**
- (b) Declining to 3.5% in 2024**
- (c) Remaining stable at 5% in 2024**
- (d) Increasing by 2% in 2024**

**9. In the context of the Israel-Hamas conflict, what does the term "Al-Aqsa Flood" refer to?**

- (a) A humanitarian initiative**
- (b) A military operation by Israel**
- (c) Operation Al-Aqsa Storm**
- (d) Operation Iron Dome**

**10. What is the role of Hezbollah in supporting the regime of President Bashar al-Assad in Syria?**

- (a) Opposing Assad's regime**
- (b) Remaining neutral**
- (c) Supporting Assad's regime**
- (d) No involvement in Syrian affairs**

**11. According to the passage, what is the potential consequence of a regional conflict with Iran-backed militants on oil prices?**

- (a) Falling to mid-USD 90s per barrel**
- (b) Remaining stable at USD 80 per barrel**
- (c) Rising to mid-USD 90s per barrel**
- (d) Falling below USD 80 per barrel**

**12. What is the significance of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) in the context of SDGs?**

- (a) Focuses on climate change adaptation**
- (b) Aims for efficient use of financial flows**
- (c) Promotes humanitarian aid**
- (d) Emphasizes military interventions**

**13. How has the Israel-Hamas conflict been intensified, as mentioned in the passage?**

- (a) Israel's withdrawal from Gaza**
- (b) Ground offensive by Israel in Gaza**
- (c) Ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas**
- (d) Humanitarian aid provided to Gaza**

**14. What is the annual SDG funding gap, and how much has it increased post-pandemic?**

- (a) USD 3 trillion, increased to USD 4.2 trillion**
- (b) USD 2.5 trillion, increased to USD 4.2 trillion**
- (c) USD 4 trillion, increased to USD 2.5 trillion**
- (d) USD 1 trillion, increased to USD 3 trillion**

**15. What is the primary focus of the UN Secretary-General's proposal for an SDG stimulus?**

- (a) Decreasing annual funding**
- (b) Increasing the SDG funding gap**
- (c) Urgent implementation of SDG stimulus**
- (d) Yearly increase of USD 500 billion for SDGs**

**ANSWER KEY**

**Passage 1**

1. (c) 0 to 100
2. (c) Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe
3. (b) 28.7; Serious
4. (b) 18.3; Moderate
5. (a) Belarus
6. (c) 35.5%
7. (b) Methodological issues and malafide intent
8. (a) Three out of four GHI indicators pertain to children's health
9. (a) Genetic factors
10. (b) Widespread poverty and socioeconomic disparities
11. (c) Hidden Hunger
12. (c) Suboptimal crop yields and post-harvest losses
13. (c) Gender Inequality
14. (c) Climate Change
15. (b) Lack of audit mechanisms at the local governance level.

**Passage 2**

1. (b) Ruled against granting constitutional validity
2. (c) Special Marriage Act, 1954
3. (b) Amendment of the Special Marriage Act
4. (c) Statutory right
5. (a) Navjet Singh Johar case
6. (b) To provide civil marriage for Indians and Indian nationals abroad
7. (a) Fundamental right
8. (c) Equal Rights and Protection
9. (d) Procreation
10. (c) Religious and Cultural Beliefs
11. (c) Global acceptance
12. (a) Gender restrictions
13. (a) Supriyo v Union Of India
14. (d) Legal Issues
15. (b) Social impact of cohabitation

**ANSWER KEY**

**Passage 3**

1. (b) It provides for 1/3 seats reserved for women in Lok Sabha and State legislative assemblies
2. (a) 1996
3. (d) Committee on the Status of Women in India in 1971
4. (b) Article 239AA and Article 334A
5. (c) After delimitation is undertaken and Census is conducted
6. (c) 15 years (can be extended)
7. (a) To address political underrepresentation
8. (a) 82
9. (c) 15.2%
10. (a) Delhi
11. (c) Political underrepresentation of women
12. (d) Delimitation Commission
13. (c) Article 239AA
14. (c) 15 years with the possibility of extension
15. (c) After every delimitation in the country

**Passage 4**

1. (b) International reforms combating tax evasion
2. (b) Fraudulent practices to diminish tax liability
3. (b) To establish a standard minimum tax rate globally
4. (c) 15%
5. (c) 136
6. (b) To facilitate the automatic exchange of bank information internationally
7. (b) Non-compliance by offshore financial institutions
8. (c) 0% to 0.5%
9. (b) USD 1 trillion
10. (b) MNCs might use green tax credits to lower tax rates below the 15% minimum
11. (b) 2%
12. (c) Reforming the international agreement on minimum corporate taxation with a 25% rate
13. (a) Implementing unilateral measures
14. (a) Strengthening economic substance and anti-abuse rules
15. (d) All of the above

**ANSWER KEY**

**Passage 5**

1. (c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
2. (c) India
3. (c) Climate-induced displacement
4. (c) Colombia
5. (c) Russia-Ukraine conflict
6. (b) United States, Germany, United Kingdom, and Spain
7. (b) United States
8. (c) Family migration
9. (a) Decreased from 28% to 21%
10. (b) 1961
11. (c) 38
12. (a) Colombia
13. (c) Partner with collaborative engagements
14. (b) Government at a Glance and OECD Better Life Index
15. (c) Collaborative economic partner

**Passage 6**

1. (c) United Nations University- Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)
2. (c) Risk tipping points
3. (b) Groundwater depletion
4. (c) Saudi Arabia
5. (b) Land use changes and climate changes
6. (b) Space debris
7. (c) By inducing wet-bulb temperatures exceeding survivability thresholds
8. (c) Frequent severe weather events
9. (c) Global interconnectedness
10. (a) Urban resilience
11. (d) Insufficiently built or maintained infrastructure
12. (c) Four-category framework
13. (c) Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
14. (c) To reduce the impact of disasters on infrastructure
15. (b) India

**ANSWER KEY**

**Passage 7**

1. (b) Congcong, Lainlian, and Chenchen
2. (c) 45
3. (d) China
4. (c) Hockey
5. (c) 107
6. (b) Athletics
7. (d) Surpassing 100 medals in a single edition
8. (b) 2027
9. (b) e-Sports and Breakdancing
10. (a) Chess
11. (d) New Delhi
12. (b) Olympic Council of Asia
13. (d) Indian International Olympic Committee
14. (a) 1951
15. (d) India

**Passage 8**

1. (b) To encourage sustainable practices through incentives
2. (b) LiFE Campaign
3. (c) Tree plantation, water management, and air pollution reduction
4. (b) Determined by the size and scale of the activities
5. (a) To track and manage earned Green Credits
6. (a) It operates independently and focuses on different environmental activities.
7. (b) Greenwashing, or false claims of eco-friendly activities
8. (c) Climate co-benefits and carbon credit acquisition
9. (c) Complexity and potential time consumption
10. (c) SDG 12, 13, and 15
11. (a) Standardization, transparency, regional customization, and regulatory oversight
12. (b) 2023
13. (b) Olympic Council of Asia
14. (a) Congcong, Lainlian, and Chenchen
15. (d) New Delhi

**ANSWER KEY**

**Passage 9**

1. (c) USD 4.2 trillion
2. (c) A financial framework for SDGs
3. (c) USD 500 billion
4. (d) Multilateral actions
5. (c) Sendai Framework
6. (b) 15%
7. (c) USD 4 trillion
8. (c) Enabling environments
9. (c) Climate change
10. (b) Full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and all 17 SDGs
11. (c) USD 500 billion
12. (b) Efficient use of financial flows
13. (c) 15%
14. (a) Debt Swaps for SDGs
15. (c) Accessibility issues

**Passage 10**

1. (a) Operation Al-Aqsa Storm
2. (c) Broader regional conflict
3. (d) Limited direct impact on the global economy
4. (b) Rejects any compromise
5. (a) Founded in 1975, played a role against Palestinian presence
6. (c) Opposes them
7. (c) Terror organization
8. (a) Rising to about 6.7% in 2024
9. (c) Operation Al-Aqsa Storm
10. (c) Supporting Assad's regime
11. (c) Rising to mid-USD 90s per barrel
12. (b) Aims for efficient use of financial flows
13. (b) Ground offensive by Israel in Gaza
14. (b) USD 2.5 trillion, increased to USD 4.2 trillion
15. (d) Yearly increase of USD 500 billion for SDGs



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