

Hunu App

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Science & Technology

Why in the news?

The Mongolian herders enlist new tech against harsher, drier climate.

- **Hunu app** - It is a mobile tool designed to empower nomadic herders in Mongolia by helping them track livestock, monitor pasture conditions, and navigate extreme weather.
- **Developed by** - a Mongolian, Bilgudei Gankhulug, he was inspired to help herders after a 2024 "dzud".
 - **Dzud** - A severe winter characterised by extremely low temperatures as low as minus 45C and heavy snow; more than eight million livestock died.
- **Key Features**
- **GPS-based livestock tracking** - A solar-powered GPS device is attached to one animal per herd; since herds usually move together, tracking one animal helps monitor the entire group.
- **Weather and climate alerts** - Provides real-time forecasts and AI-powered early warnings for severe weather, dust storms, blizzards and climate-related risks.
- **Environment mapping** - Compiles maps showing snow depth, soil moisture, and wind direction to help herders decide where to move safely.
- **Emergency SOS** - Features an emergency alert system that can transmit requests for help even when offline via SMS.



- **Climate challenges facing Mongolia** - Herders are among the most affected communities because they depend directly on grazing land and livestock.
- **Key Problems** - Frequent droughts, extreme weather events, harsh winter conditions, rapid desertification, land degradation and overgrazing of grasslands.
- According to Mongolian authorities, about 82% of the country's territory is affected by desertification and land degradation.
- **Importance of Mongolia's Rangelands** - According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), around 80% of Mongolia consists of rangelands.
- These grasslands are vital for nomadic livelihoods, livestock grazing and biodiversity conservation.
- **Global Significance** - Mongolia recently hosted COP17 of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), where countries discussed land restoration, drought resilience and financing for combating desertification.

Reference

[The Hindu | Mongolian herders enlist new tech against harsher, drier climate](#)