

## Prelim Bits 02-06-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### The Pandemic Fund

India is believed to have placed a funding request of around \$55 million in its first call with the Pandemic Fund of the World Bank.

- Pandemic Fund is a multi-stakeholder global partnership officially established in November, 2022.
- It is one of the Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF).
- It is a collaborative partnership among *donor countries*, *co-investors* (countries that are eligible to receive funding), *foundations* and *civil society organizations* (CSOs).
- **Objective** - It will provide a dedicated stream of additional, long-term financing to strengthen critical pandemic *Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPR)* capabilities in low- and middle-income countries.
- **Governing Structure**
  1. **Governing Board**
  2. **Technical Advisory Panel**
  3. **Secretariat** - The World Bank
  4. **Trustee** - The World Bank
- **Funding** - The financial volume of The Pandemic Fund depends upon *contributions from donors*.
- **Founding financial contributors** - Australia, Canada, China, European Commission, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Spain, United Arab Emirates, *United States*, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Wellcome Trust.



### Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF)

- They provide *independently governed* multi-contributor collaboration platforms for the global development community.
- It focuses on specific themes and each FIF is a type of trust fund for which the **World Bank** serves as trustee.
- **Examples** of FIFs are: *Adaptation Fund, The Pandemic Fund, Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund*, etc.,
- FIF Trusteeship does not involve overseeing or supervising the use of funds.

### References

1. [Business Standard | India's request from pandemic fund](#)
2. [World Bank | The Pandemic Fund](#)

## Nepal PM visit to India

*Nepal and India renewed the Transit Treaty, signed deals in energy and Connectivity*

- **Transit treaty** - Under this, the contracting parties shall accord the *freedom of transit* across their respective territories through routes mutually agreed upon.
- The treaty of transit between India & Nepal expired in 2019.
- The amended new treaty will allow Nepal *to access India's inland waterways* for cargo transportation to sea ports.
- **Hydro Power Projects** - Currently, India exports around 452 MW of power from Nepal.
- India had agreed to import an additional 1,200 MW.
- India has also agreed to facilitate the export of hydropower from *Nepal to Bangladesh through India*.
- **Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project** - It is a hydropower project to be developed in *Mahakali River* bordering Nepal and India.
- The project is covered under integrated Mahakali Treaty signed between India & Nepal.

*Mahakali Treaty has been signed in 1996 for the purpose of Integrated Development of the Mahakali River (known as **River Sarda** in India), including Sarda Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheshwar Project.*

- **Power trade** - India and Nepal had also signed a long-term power trade agreement.
- Under this agreement, India will import 10,000 MW of power from Nepal in the next 10 years.

## Other upcoming projects with Nepal

| Project                                 | River         |
|---|---------------|
| Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project        | River Sarda   |
| Saptakoshi and Sun-Kosi Storage project | River Kosi    |
| Naumere Multipurpose Project            | River Rapti   |
| Kamla Dam Multipurpose Project          | River Kamla   |
| Bagmati Multipurpose Project            | River Bagmati |

## References

1. [The Wire | Nepal PM's visit to India](#)
2. [Ministry of Jal Sakthi | India-Nepal Cooperation](#)

## Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact

*Union Home Minister Amit Shah, warned that any further violation by insurgent groups would be considered a violation of the SoO agreement. **Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact***

- It is a tripartite agreement between the Government of India, State Governments and the insurgent groups.
- There are nearly 30 Kuki insurgent groups in Manipur, of which 25 are under the tripartite Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact.
- As many as 17 are under the umbrella group Kuki National Organisation (KNO), and eight are under the United People's Front (UPF).
- The pact was signed in August 2008, with the primary objective of initiating political dialogue.
- AB Mathur, former special secretary of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), was the interlocutor for this agreement.
- The Kuki outfits who were initially demanding a separate Kuki state have come down to a Kukiland territorial council.
- **Kuki Territorial Council** - It would have financial and administrative powers independent of the Manipur Assembly and government.

### Terms of the SoO Pact

- While the period of the Suspension of Operation agreement is 1 year, it is extendable according to the progress of its implementation.
- To oversee the effective implementation of the SoO pact, a committee called the **Joint Monitoring Group (JMG)**, with representatives from all the signatories, has been formed.
- According to the pact, the Centre and state governments agreed that the security forces would not launch any operations against these groups.
- In return, the insurgent groups will also not launch any such operation.
- The pact also requires these groups to abide by the Constitution of India, the laws of the land and the territorial integrity of Manipur.

### References

[The Indian Express | What is the SoO agreement?](#)

### Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (JME) 2023

*India is having a reduction in stunting but wasting and obesity remains a concern.*

- JME 2023 is jointly released by UNICEF, WHO and World Bank.

### Global Scenario

- **Obesity** - The prevalence of obesity marginally increased in a decade in 2022 compared to 2012.
- But the overall classification for obesity is low and much lower than the global prevalence.
- **Stunting** - It is declined from a prevalence rate of 26.3% in 2012 to 22.3% in 2022.
- In South Asia, the decline was much sharper as it dropped from 40.3% to 30.5%.
- **Wasting** - It is probably more complex in South Asia and India.
- While in Africa it starts from 4-6 months.

## In India

- **Obesity** - Prevalence of overweight children increased in India in 2022 compared to 2012.
- **Stunting** - India continues to show a reduction in stunted children under 5 years in 2022 compared to 2012.
- **Wasting** - In India 2/3rds of children at 12 or 24 months had wasting at birth or at one month of age.
- It is caused by maternal malnutrition.



## India's Target



## References

1. [World Bank | Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates 2023](#)
2. [The Hindu | India sees decline in stunting](#)

## Zardosi Embroidery

*Zardosi artisans made two lakh car hangers designed like a crown for King Charles III's coronation.*

- Zardozi comes from two Persian words - zar or zarin meaning 'gold', and dozi meaning 'sewing'.
- It is a type of heavy and elaborate *metal embroidery* on a silk, satin, or velvet fabric base.
- Designs are often created using *gold and silver threads* and can incorporate pearls, beads, and precious stones.
- Other names
  - **Zardozi** - Bhopal, Delhi, Hyderanad and Uttar Pradesh
  - **Kamdani or badla** - Lucknow
  - **Danka and gotta-patti** - Rajasthan
  - **Tilla** - Jammu & Kashmir and parts of western India.
- Historically, it was used to embellish the attire of the royals.
- It is found in Iran, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Kuwait, Syria, Turkey, Central Asia, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- Main Centers in India - Lucknow, Farrukhabad, Chennai, Bhopal, etc.
- Zardosi embroidery has been in existence in India from the time of the *Rig Veda*.
- The Delhi Sultanate era further boosted this craft.
- It attained its summit in the 17th century, under the patronage of *Mughal Emperor Akbar*.
- Under the rule of Aurangzeb, the royal patronage stopped and this led to the decline of the craft.
- In 2013, the *Geographical Indication Registry* (GIR) accorded Geographical Indication

(GI) registration to the *Lucknow zardozi*.

## References

1. [The Hindu | Zardosi Embroidery](#)
2. [The Hindu | Zardozi crown for king](#)

