

Great knot

- Unveiling yet another mystery of avian migrations, a great knot from Russia, belonging to the endangered *Calidris tenuirostris* (Horsfield, 1821), has found its way to Kerala's coast, flying over 9,000 km for a winter sojourn.



- The migratory bird that traversed the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) is only one of the two the others has been sighted at Jamnagar in Gujarat great knots to be re-sighted in India among the nearly thousand ones tagged with MOSKVA rings in the Kamchatka peninsula in eastern Russia.

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Loss and damage fund

What is “loss and damage”?

The phrase refers to costs already being incurred from climate-fuelled weather extremes or impacts, like rising sea levels

- Climate funding so far has focused on cutting CO2 emissions, while a third of it went towards helping communities adapt to future impacts
- Loss and damage funding is expected to cover the cost of damage that countries cannot avoid or adapt to
- A report by 55 vulnerable countries estimated that their combined climate-linked losses in the last two decades totalled



\$525 billion, or 20% of their collective GDP. This could go upto \$580 billion per year by 2030

- Vulnerable countries and campaigners argue that rich countries that caused the bulk of climate change with their historical greenhouse gas emissions should pay

Source: Reuters

COP-27 sets up loss and damage fund

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Delegates at the UN's climate conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt thrashed out an agreement on Sunday to establish a loss and damage (L&D) fund to compensate the most vulnerable countries from climate-linked disasters.

Crucial questions – such as who will manage this

fund, whether contributions are expected from large developing countries and what the fair share of contributors will be – have been left to a “transitional committee” that will make recommendations for the adoption of the fund.

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- Delegates at the UN's climate conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt thrashed out an agreement on Sunday to establish a loss and damage (L&D) fund to compensate the most vulnerable countries from climate linked disasters.
- The 27th edition of the United Nations Conference of the Parties was projected to be an ‘implementation’ COP that would have decisively resolved questions on how developed countries, responsible for the bulk of historical emissions, would make good on an old promise to provide developing countries \$100 billion annually by 2020.

- And whether the world would commit to ending all categories of fossil fuel, and not just coal
- Despite hours of negotiations, these deadlocks remain. COP-27 will certainly be remembered as the COP of Loss and Damages (L&D).
- A nearly three-decade old movement, first initiated by the island nation of Vanuatu and the Alliance of Small Island States, has come to partial fruition.
- There will now be a dedicated fund to compensate the most vulnerable developing countries that are already bearing the brunt of climate change-linked natural disasters.
- L&D refers to impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided either by mitigation (cutting greenhouse gas emissions) or adaptation (modifying practices to buffer against climate change impacts).
- They also include not only economic damage to property but also loss of livelihoods, and the destruction of biodiversity and sites that have cultural importance.
- This broadens the scope for affected nations to claim compensation.
- The text approved at Sharm el-Sheikh only commits to a fund being created and leaves discussions for how it is to be set up and, most

importantly, who will pay how much to it, for future COP negotiations.

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16 days of activism

- The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual campaign that begins on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs through International Human Rights Day on 10 December.
- Led by civil society, the campaign is supported by the United Nations through the Secretary General's UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence against Women initiative.
- This year, the UN marks 16 Days under the theme "UNiTE! Activism to end violence against women and girls"
- More than 1 in 3 women experience gender-based violence during their lifetime
- In 2021, nearly 1 in 5 women aged 20-24 were married before turning 18.
- Less than 40 percent of women who experience violence seek help of any sort.
- Violence against women and girls remains the most pervasive human rights violation around the world.

- Already heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic, its prevalence is now being further increased by the intersecting crises of climate change, global conflict, and economic instability.
- There are over 2,12,000 refugees in India including those supported by the Government of India, more than half of whom are women and girls.
- India ensures that refugees can access protection services that are on a par with their fellow Indian hosts.
- For those refugees registered directly by the Government such as those from Sri Lanka, they are entitled to Aadhaar cards and PAN cards to enable their economic and financial inclusion;
- They can have access to national welfare schemes and contribute effectively to the Indian economy.
- India needs to absorb the new technologies that have emerged, and that will emerge.
- Its development strategy must be multi-dimensional. India needs a strong export sector.
- It is a test of efficiency. At the same time, India needs a strong manufacturing sector.
- The organized segment of this sector must also increase.
- As output and income increase, India must also strengthen the system of social safety nets. Growth without equity is not sustainable.
- The rapid pace of globalisation which India saw since the beginning of the 1990s will slow down for a variety of reasons. Some countries which were champions of globalization are making a retreat.
- Some countries feel that dependence on other countries for certain key inputs such as crude oil or chips may land them in difficulties at times.
- The Russia-Ukraine war has exposed this problem starkly.
- An open economy with some limitations is still the best route to follow.
- India today is the fifth largest economy. This is an impressive achievement.

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Present economic approach

- A proper investment climate must be created and sustained.
- While public investment should also rise, the major component of investment is private investment, both corporate and non-corporate.
- It is this which depends on a stable financial and fiscal system.
- The Russia-Ukraine war has exposed this problem starkly.
- An open economy with some limitations is still the best route to follow.
- India today is the fifth largest economy. This is an impressive achievement.

- However, in relation to per capita income, it is a different story. In 2020, India's rank was 142 out of 197 countries.
- This only shows the distance we have to travel.
- The external environment is not going to be conducive.
- First, it weakens the principle of federalism by dismantling the role of State governments in the governance of agricultural universities.
- Second, it raises an existential threat for the facilitator and coordinator of agricultural education the ICAR by creating a false equivalence between the university system under the UGC and the agricultural university system under the State governments.

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Federalism and agriculture education

- The Kerala High Court recently annulled the appointment of the Vice-chancellor of the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS).
- The court said that the appointment violated the University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulations of 2018.
- It listed two specific violations:
 - The search committee recommended a single name and not a panel; and
 - In the search committee, the State government included the Director-general of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) instead of a UGC nominee.
- Given the history of agricultural education in India, the judgment is worrying.
- The evolution of agricultural education has dovetailed the exclusive role bestowed by the Constitution to the States in managing agriculture.
- Agriculture was included as an occupied field in List II (State List) in the Seventh Schedule.
- Agricultural education was detached from other streams of higher education and attached to agriculture in List II itself.
- Entry 14 of List II reads: "Agriculture, including agricultural education and research...". Indeed, education is in List III (Concurrent List).
- Entry 25 of List III reads: "Education, including technical education, medical education and universities, subject to the provisions of entries 63, 64, 65 and 66 of List I...". But

there is no mention of agricultural education in Entry 25 of List III.

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Draft digital data protection bill

- The bill aims to outline the rights and duties of 'digital nagriks' (digital citizens) and lay out the process and rules for data collection for companies.
- The bill imposes heavy penalties for violations of any provisions of the legislation to be decided by the Data Protection Board of India, which will be established by the new law.
- However, the board's orders can be challenged in a high court.

Seven principles

- The bill is based on seven principles.
- While the first says that usage of personal data by organizations must be done in a manner that is lawful, fair to the individuals concerned, and transparent to individuals, the second principle is that personal data must be used only for the purposes for which it was collected.
- This third principle talks of data minimization, while the fourth emphasizes on data accuracy during collection.
- The fifth principle clarifies that the collected personal data cannot be

“stored perpetually by default”, and that storage should be limited to a fixed duration.

- According to the sixth principle, there should be reasonable safeguards to ensure there is “no unauthorized collection or processing of personal data.”
- And, the seventh principle says that “the person who decides the purpose and means of the processing of personal data should be accountable for such processing.”

The nomenclature

- The individual whose data is being collected will be termed “data principal” and the term “data fiduciary” is for the entity that decides the “purpose and means of the processing of an individual’s personal data.”
- In the case of children – those under the age of 18, as per the draft bill – their parents or lawful guardians will be considered their ‘data principals.’
- Under the law, personal data is “any data by which or in relation to which an individual can be identified.”
- Processing means “the entire cycle of operations that can be carried out in respect of personal data.”
- The bill also makes it clear that individual needs to give consent before their data is processed and

that “every individual should know what items of personal data a data fiduciary wants to collect and the purpose of such collection and further processing.”

- Individuals also have the right to withdraw consent from a data fiduciary.

Significant data fiduciaries

- ‘Significant data fiduciaries’ will deal with a high volume of personal data.
- The Central government will define who is designated under this category based on a number of factors the volume of personal data processed, risk of harm to the potential impact on the sovereignty and integrity of India, etc. e.
- ‘Significant data fiduciaries’ will have to appoint a ‘data protection officer’, who will be the point of contact for grievance redressal, and an independent ‘data auditor’, who shall evaluate their compliance with the act.

Granted rights

- Data principals will have the right to demand the erasure and correction of data collected by the data fiduciary. They will also have the right to nominate an individual who will exercise these rights in the event

of death or incapacity of the data principal.

- The bill also gives consumers the right to file a complaint against a ‘data fiduciary’ with the Data Protection Board in case they do not get a satisfactory response from the company.

Cross-border storage

- The bill also allows for cross-border storage and transfer of data to “certain notified countries and territories.” However, “an assessment of relevant factors by the Central Government would precede such a notification,”
- The draft also proposes to impose significant penalties on businesses that undergo data breaches or fail to notify users when breaches happen.
- Entities that fail to take “reasonable security safeguards” to prevent personal data breaches will be fined an amount as high as Rs 250 crore.
- The government could also exempt certain businesses from adhering to provisions of the bill on the basis of the number of users and the volume of personal data processed by the entity.
- This has been done keeping in mind start-ups of the country who had complained that the previous

version of the bill was too
“compliance intensive”.

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