

National survey

- The Government of India recently appointed a panel under the chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen to review the methodology of the National Statistical Organisation.
- This happened in the backdrop of articles by Dr. Shramika Ravi and Dr. Bibek Debroy arguing that the usage of outdated survey methodology by national surveys has systematically underestimated India's development.
- National-level data is a key source for research, policymaking, and development planning.
- The Board will “set up a welfare fund, register platform -based gig workers, aggregators and primary employers... facilitate guarantee of social security to platform -based gig workers and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”
- The Board will maintain a database of companies and workers and each worker will receive a unique ID which “shall be valid in perpetuity.”
- An aggregator's duties under the Bill include: depositing welfare cess on time, updating the database of gig workers, and documenting any variations in numbers within one month of such changes.

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Rajasthan bill on gig workers

- ON July 24, the Rajasthan government passed the Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023.
- It is the first legislation of its kind in India outlining welfare schemes for the State's approximately three lakh gig worker
- The Bill proposes a Welfare Board comprising State officials, five representatives each from gig workers and aggregators, and two others from civil society.

Semiconductors

- At its core, a semiconductor chip is composed of transistors, which in turn are meticulously crafted from a specially selected material, typically silicon.
- One major function of a transistor is to encode information in the form of 0s and 1s and to manipulate them to produce new information.
- These transistors have three parts: the source, the gate, and the drain (or the sink).

- The flow of current between the source and the drain points is regulated by the voltage applied to the gate.
- By manipulating the gate to 'open' or 'close', the transistor stores and manipulates the data in a semiconductor chip.
- The semiconductor stores information in the form of bits.
- Indeed, as the demand for electric cars together with the ever-increasing demand for complementary electronics in the car, like music players increases, the demand for legacy nodes will also increase
- legacy node" chips are the other, less sophisticated parts that run functions like driving displays or handling radio communications between a device and a cell tower
- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.
- It aims to achieve the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities, and countries over the next 15 years.
- The Framework was adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, on March 18, 2015.
- The G20 is in a unique position to chart a new path of disaster risk-informed decision-making.
- This means not only considering the potential impact of economic decisions on disaster risks but also leveraging economic tools to reduce existing risks and prevent new ones

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Sendai framework

- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 outlines seven clear targets and four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks:
 - Understanding disaster risk
 - Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;
 - Investing in disaster reduction for resilience and;
 - Expanding disaster early warning and early action systems is a top priority.
 - Inclusive and multi-hazard early warning systems are among the most effective means of reducing disaster deaths and economic losses
- G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, which forms the basis for the Communiqué being negotiated in Chennai

- Enhancing the resilience of infrastructure to withstand climate and disaster risks is another global priority
- Infrastructure has a long life cycle, and if built well, can lock resilience as opposed to risk. That same infrastructure also becomes the lifeline of recovery during a crisis
- Finally, developing a new approach to financing disaster risk reduction is needed to transform risk reduction plans into concrete actions.
- This effort must be led by finance and economy ministries in collaboration with the private sector because the current funding deficit for disaster risk reduction is too large for governments to manage alone, and many of the risks generated are by the private sector.

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ASEAN



Image: ASEAN

- 56th Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM) of the Association of

Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the post-ministerial conferences and other related regional meetings, held in Jakarta, Indonesia in mid-July, 2023.

- As the current chair, Indonesia has portrayed ASEAN as “the Epicentre of Growth”.
- It is a well-chiselled vision with three inter-related dimensions: creating a political community that ensures regional peace and a just,
- democratic and harmonious environment; an economic community focused on achieving a well-integrated and
- connected regional economy within the global economic system; and a socio-cultural community to enhance the quality of life of ASEAN’s citizens as well as sustainable development of the region
- ASEAN’s ability to manage regional and global dynamics depended on two critical ingredients that promote its unity and centrality.
- First, it should maintain its credibility by adhering to the ASEAN Charter, and second, it should stay in the driver’s seat while navigating regional dynamics
- China enjoys close political and economic relations with the ASEAN states, and at least three of them,

i.e., Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar, are its virtual dependencies.

- While the Philippines has become more assertive of late in its claims in the South China Sea, the central players, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand, are all favourably disposed towards Beijing.
- This explains why none of them raises its voice against China's delaying tactics in negotiating an enforceable code of conduct concerning the South China Sea
- "ASEAN prefers to promote the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). Its four identified areas (maritime cooperation, connectivity, UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030, and economic cooperation) make much sense to the region.
- ASEAN reiterated its centrality, but it appears vulnerable when the grouping is unable to forge unity on a most sensitive issue, the Myanmar situation, which has led ASEAN to bar a member-state (Myanmar) from all its political-level discussions
- The importance of a "strong and unified" ASEAN in the emerging dynamic of the Indo-Pacific, and highlighted the convergence between the AOIP and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.
- To build on the comprehensive strategic partnership between India

and ASEAN, he suggested that the two sides work in "newer areas such as cyber, financial and maritime security domains.

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