

Why coup in Niger



- Niger's military staged a coup, ousting President Mohamed Bazoum.
- The head of Niger's presidential guard, Abdourahmane Tchiani proclaimed of the military's spokesperson and announced that it has decided to "put an end to the regime due to the deteriorating security situation and bad governance."
- The constitution is dismissed, all institutions suspended, and the national borders closed

What are the external interests in Niger?

- While insurgency in Mali and Burkina Faso led to military coups, Niger managed a democratic transfer of power in 2021, an odd one in the region.
- This had kept smooth relations with the West. Niger has been a key partner in Washington's fight against insurgency; nearly 1,100 U.S. troops are here.
- According to the Relief Web report, more than 4.4 million people are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance in the countries.
- France and ousted President Bazoum had a closer economic and security partnership.
- Nearly 1,500 French troops were fighting insurgency in Niger.
- The country, which is rich in Uranium produces seven percent of global supplies and has been exporting a quarter of it to France.
- According to Euratom, Niger supplies 25.4 percent of Uranium to the EU countries.
- The coup has raised a new uncertainty over Niger's Uranium export The region is divided between the ECOWAS and Niger's immediate neighbours of Mali and Burkina Faso
- The Economic Community of West African States is a regional political and economic union of fifteen countries located in West Africa.

Collectively, these countries comprise an area of 5,114,162 km², and in 2019 had an estimated population of over 387 million.

How to explain the anti-French sentiments rising in Niger?

- Following the coup, thousands took part in protests in the capital Niamey, with some waving Russian flags chanting “Long live Russia”, “Long live Putin” and “Down with France.”
- Anti-French sentiments in Niger have been going on since mid-2022.
- It followed when Mr. Bazoum’s government approved the re-deployment of France’s Barkhane force to Niger after withdrawing from Niger.
- In Mali and Burkina Faso, after relations between military governments and the West fallout, Russia was seen as the immediate alternative.

THE HINDU

Amendment to biological diversity Act

- The Lok Sabha passes the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which seeks to amend the existing Biological Diversity Act, of 2002.
- The Bill aims to address certain issues and concerns related to the Act and Promote the Benefits of

medicinal forest products to tribes and vulnerable communities.

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Biological Diversity Act, 2002

- The Biological Diversity Act, of 2002, is an important legislation enacted by the Indian government to conserve and promote the sustainable use of Biological Diversity.
- It was formulated to give effect to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992, which aims to ensure the conservation of Biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE BIOLOGICAL

- **DIVERSITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021**
- **Exemption for AYUSH Practitioners**
- The Bill exempted registered AYUSH medical practitioners from the requirement of giving prior intimation to State Biodiversity Boards for accessing biological resources for certain purposes
- This exemption aimed to facilitate easier access for traditional

medicine practitioners to Biological resources for medicinal purposes.

• SALIENT FEATURES OF THE BIOLOGICAL

• DIVERSITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021

• Exemption for Cultivated Medicinal Plants

- The Bill excluded cultivated medicinal plants from the purview of the Biological Diversity Act.
- This meant that access to cultivated medicinal plants for various purposes would not be subject to the regulations and requirements of the Act.

REASON FOR AMENDMENT

- Stakeholders, such as Indian system medicine practitioners, the seed sector, pharmaceutical industries, and researchers, raised concerns about certain provisions restricting their activities under the 2002 Act.
- The Nagoya Protocol, an international agreement under the CBD, mandated access and benefit-sharing of biological resources between biodiversity-rich countries and user agencies for research and commercial purposes.
- The proposed amendments in the Bill address the concerns of stakeholders, particularly traditional medicine practitioners, by exempting certain users from

making payments toward access and benefit-sharing.

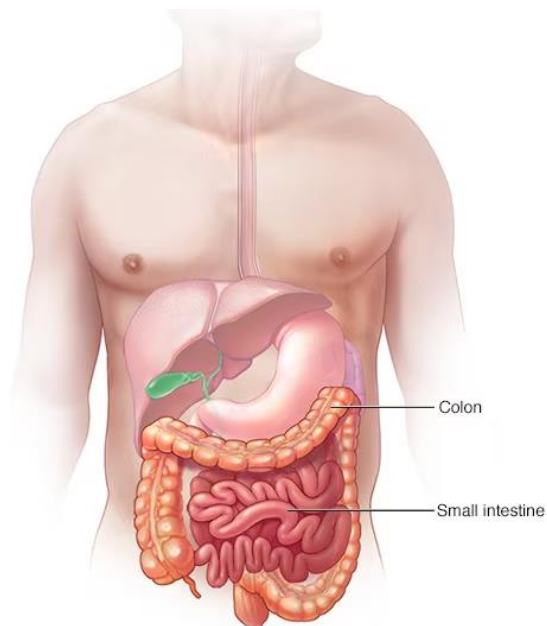
- The government seeks to promote traditional systems of medicine reliant on biological resources, leading to amendments in the biodiversity law
- The amendments also clarify the treatment of companies registered in India and controlled by Indians, even if they have foreign equity or partnership, reducing restrictions on their utilization of biological resources.

CRITICISM

- Experts have, however reportedly argued that the bill may lead to rampant commercialisation and deny benefits of biological resources to local communities that hold traditional knowledge.
- The new bill not only simplifies compliance requirements for the ease of doing business but also discriminates Biodiversity offenses.
- Companies registered in India and controlled by Indians are now treated as Indian companies, even if they have foreign equity or partnership, thereby reducing the restrictions on them.
- Provisions have been included to speed up the approval process in cases of use of biological resources in scientific research or for filing of patent applications.

Lactose intolerance

- People with lactose intolerance are unable to fully digest the sugar (lactose) in milk.
- As a result, they have diarrhoea, gas, and bloating after eating or drinking dairy products.
- The condition, which is also called lactose malabsorption, is usually harmless, but its symptoms can be uncomfortable.
- Too little of an enzyme produced in your small intestine (lactase) is usually responsible for lactose intolerance.



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- The small intestine and colon are parts of your digestive tract, which processes the foods you eat.
- The intestines take nutrients from the foods. What isn't absorbed by the intestines continues along the digestive tract and is passed as stool during a bowel movement.

THE HINDU

Why cheetah dies?

Lack of Space

- Many experts, including the Supreme Court, have raised doubts over the adequacy of space and facilities in Kuno Park in Madhya Pradesh and have suggested relocating cheetahs to other sanctuaries

No Fenced Cheetah Habitats in India

- India should fence two or three habitats for cheetahs as there has never been a successful reintroduction into an unfenced reserve in recorded history, South African wildlife expert Vincent van der Merwe said in an interview with news agency PTI.
- Earlier in April, Merwe warned that the reintroduction project is going to see even higher deaths in the next few months when cheetahs try to establish territories and confront leopards and tigers in the Kuno National Park.
- The best way forward right now would be to get at least three or four cheetahs to Mukundra Hills, and let them breed up there.
- "Mukundra Hills is fully fenced. We know that cheetahs will do very well there.

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Himalayan vulture

- Researchers have recorded the first instance of captive breeding of the Himalayan vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) in India at the Assam State Zoo, Guwahati.
- Categorised as 'near threatened' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of threatened species, the Himalayan vulture is a common winter migrant to the Indian plains, and a resident of the high Himalayas.
- Himalayan vultures (*Gyps himalayensis*) are indigenous to the uplands of central Asia, ranging from Kazakhstan and Afghanistan in the west to western China and Mongolia in the east.
- These birds generally migrate only altitudinally within their central Asian range, however immature juveniles have been recently documented in Southeast Asia from northern Myanmar to northwest Indonesia.
- This species predominately inhabits the mountainous terrain of the Tibetan plateau with migration usually only occurring altitudinally.
- Breeding typically occurs at elevations between 600 and 4,500 m.

THE HINDU

Pak & us

- Pakistan's Cabinet has quietly approved the signing of a new security pact with the U.S., a move that indicates a fresh start in defense cooperation after years of distrust between the two nations and may open avenues for Islamabad to get military hardware from Washington, a media report said on Thursday.

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