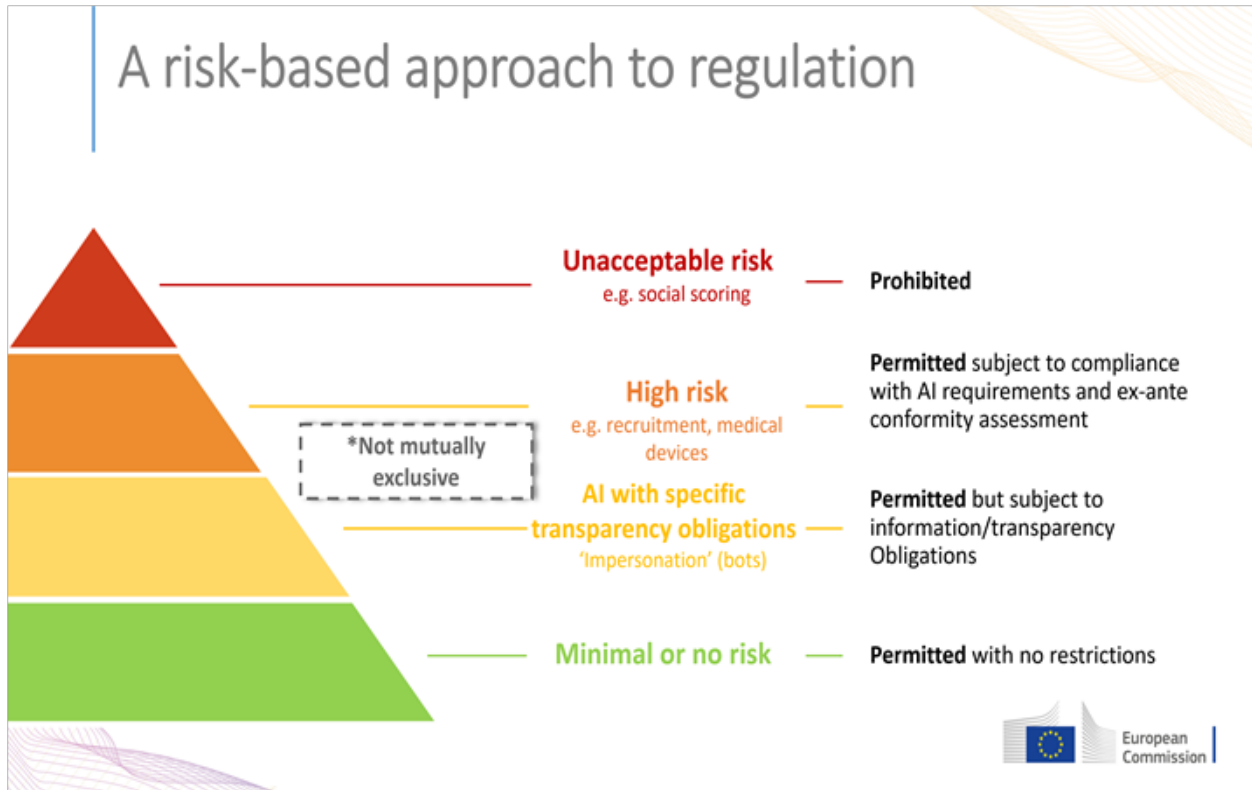


1. “Risk-based” regulation for artificial intelligence (AI)

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: Group of Seven advocated that nations should adopt “risk-based” regulation on artificial intelligence.

More on the Topic:

- G7’s “risk-based” approach could involve **graded regulation, with a lesser compliance burden on developers or users of AI tool deployed in areas** such as the word processing business or generating music, as compared to the regulatory supervision on, say, a tool aiding doctors in medical diagnosis or one linked to a face-reading device that’s matching people’s identities.

Significance of the Move:

- As AI technologies expand and adapt at a rapid pace, **nations are collaborating on designing reasonable policies** that balance innovation with privacy, security, and ethical issues.
- The accord establishes a precedent for how big countries will control AI in the face of privacy and security concerns.

AI Challenges Which Should be Addressed by the Governments:

- Protecting users from **unsafe or ineffective systems;**



- Protecting users against **discrimination by algorithms**. AI can be trained on biased data. This will further create biased data.
- Users being protected against **abusive data practices** via built-in protections, and having agency over the use of their data; (There is a risk that personal and sensitive information data could be used for unethical purposes)
- users knowing that an automated system is being used, and comprehending how and why it contributes to outcomes that impact them;
- Users being able to opt out, and have access to a person who can quickly consider and remedy problems.
- **Address the issue of fixing responsibility**. AI may generate fake news or other malicious content, without knowing who is responsible for the output.
- **The issue of Accountability**: There are concerns about who should be held responsible for the actions of AI systems – creators of the AI systems, the companies that deploy them, or the governments that regulate them.

Way Ahead:

- It's critical to design AI in such a way that it understands the **social implications of how it responds and respects human emotions and feelings**.
- Designing AI systems and certifying AI algorithms that **clearly explain decision-making operations is essential to avoid customer dissatisfaction or disappointment and enable accountability and scrutiny**.
- Thus, companies must design algorithms that **communicate AI policies on bias and offer a transparent explanation of when the problem occurs**.
- **Thus, designing, developing, and deploying fair and non-discriminatory AI systems** that ensure inclusiveness is essential and one of the key principles of AI governance.
- Organizations must **regulate their Machine Learning (ML) training data and evaluate its impact to detect bias** that may be unintentionally present or introduced within the system.
- AI development and deployment should come with **clear lines of accountability and responsibility** for any adverse outcome resulting from their use.

Source: Indian Express

2. Article 142

Topic: Polity and Governance



In News: A five-judge or constitution bench of the Supreme Court has recently held that a court can directly grant divorce under Article 142 of the Constitution, in cases where the marriage has irretrievably broken down, without referring the parties to a family court first, where they must wait for 6-18 months for a decree of divorce by mutual consent.

More on the Topic:

- Article 142 provides a unique power to the Supreme Court, **to do “complete justice” between the parties**, where, at times, the law or statute may not provide a remedy.
- In those situations, the Court can extend itself to put an end to a dispute in a manner that would fit the facts of the case.

How have courts exercised this power?

- While the powers under Article 142 are sweeping in nature, SC has defined its scope and extent through its judgments over time.
- In the Bhopal gas tragedy case (“Union Carbide Corporation vs Union of India”), the SC in 1991 ordered UCC to pay \$470 million in compensation for the victims of the tragedy.
- In doing so, **the Bench highlighted the wide scope of Article 142 (1)**, adding that it found it “necessary to set at rest certain misconceptions in the arguments touching the scope of the powers of this Court under Article 142(1) of the Constitution”.



- Prem Chand Garg case (1962): Demarcated contours for powers under Article 142. Court held that the order under Article 142 **must not only be consistent with the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution, but it cannot even be inconsistent with the substantive provisions of the relevant statutory laws.**
- In the **Supreme Court Bar Association vs Union of India (1998)** Court held that **powers under Article 142 are supplementary** and could not be used to supplant or override a substantive law.

The criticism of Article 142 and how have courts countered it:

- **Arbitrary and Ambiguous:** The sweeping nature of these powers has invited the criticism that they are arbitrary and ambiguous.
- There is possibility of arbitrary exercise or misuse due to the absence of a standard definition for the term “complete justice”.
- The court responded that, **Defining “complete justice” is a subjective exercise** that differs in its interpretation from case to case. Thus, the court has to place checks on itself.
- **Judiciary Cannot Be Held Accountable For its Actions:** Another criticism of the powers under Article 142 is that unlike the legislature and the executive, the judiciary cannot be held accountable for its actions.
- **Separation of powers doctrine:** Judiciary should not venture into areas of lawmaking and that it would invite the possibility of judicial overreach.
- Countering this criticism the apex court has imposed **checks on its own power under Article 142.**
- In 2006, the SC ruling by a five-judge Bench in ‘State of Karnataka vs Umadevi’ also clarified that “complete justice” under Article 142 means justice according to law and not sympathy.
- SC also added that it **will “not grant a relief which would amount to perpetuating an illegality encroaching into the legislative domain.”**

Source: Indian Express



3. India's Zero Hunger Goal

Topic: Social Justice

TARGETS UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2

ZERO HUNGER BY 2030

- Universal Access To Safe And Nutritious Food
- End All Forms Of Malnutrition
- Double Agricultural Productivity, Income Of Small-Scale Producers
- Ensure Sustainable Food Production Systems
- Maintain The Genetic Diversity In Food Production

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In News: According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) data, Among mothers with a child between ages 6-23 months, 18 per cent reported that their child did not eat any food whatsoever — referred to as “zero-food” — in the 24 hours preceding the survey.

More on the Topic:

- The zero-food prevalence was 30 per cent for infants aged 6-11 months, remains worryingly high at 13 per cent among the 12-17 months old, and persists even among 18-23 months-old children at 8 per cent.
- **Going without food for an entire day at this critical period of a child's development raises serious concerns related to severe food insecurity.**
- According to the World Health Organisation, **at six months of age, 33 per cent of the daily calorie intake is expected to come from food.** This proportion increases to 61 per cent at 12 months of age.
- The recommended calorie percentages mentioned here are **the minimum amount that should come from food.**
- It is presumed that **the child obtains the remaining calories through “on-demand” breastfeeding,** meaning the child is breastfed whenever they need it throughout the day and night, and not solely when the mother is able to provide it.



- Access to adequate and affordable nutritious food is equally necessary for mothers for healthy breastfeeding.

Challenges In front of India:

- There is a core deficiency in data related to food and dietary consumption.
- The rising burden of cardiovascular and other non-communicable diseases in India, particularly among the rapidly growing “middle class”, is strongly linked to diet and nutrition.
- Implementation issues associated with government programs such as Roshan Abhiyan.

Indian Policies/Programs to address Food Security Issues:

- Mission Poshan 2.0: The flagship programme dedicated to maternal and child nutrition.
- National Food Security Act 2013
- Zero Hunger Programme: Began in 2017 to improve agriculture, health and nutrition.
- Eat Right India Campaign
- Food Fortification
- PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

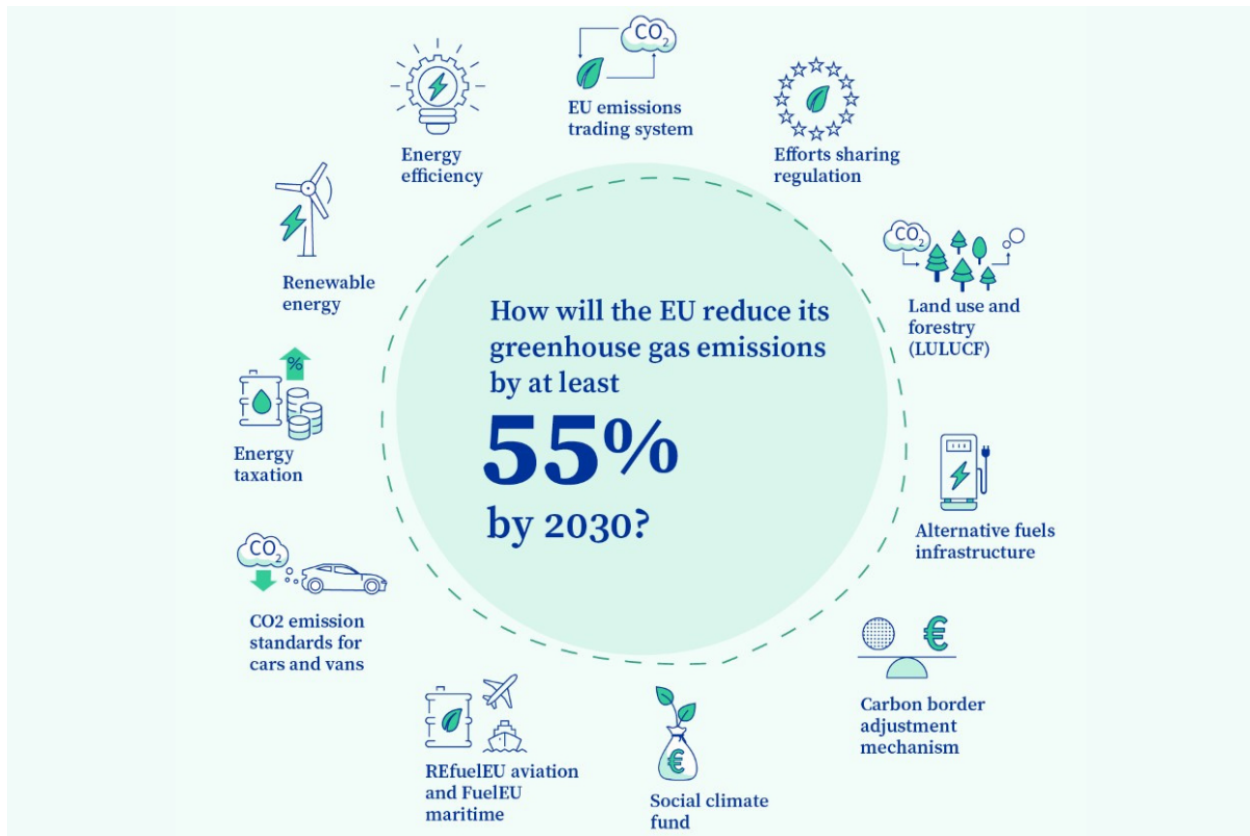
Way Ahead:

- A national effort to establish routine dietary and nutritional assessments for the entire population is the need of the hour.
- Measuring the **availability, accessibility and affordability of nutritious food, especially for disadvantaged and vulnerable populations** such as young children, constitutes the foundation for any evidence-based policy to end hunger and improve nutritional security among Indians.
- There is a need to effectively monitor and assess the performance of Poshan 2.0, there is an immediate need to develop appropriate food-based metrics.
- **Strategic use of directly trackable metrics**, as well as a **strong political commitment** at the highest levels also needed for eliminating Huger.

Source: Hindu

4. Fit for 55

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: European Union has passed laws associated with 'Fit for 55'.

More on the Topic:

- Fit for 55' package sets the EU's policies in line with its commitment to reduce its net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels and to achieve climate neutrality in 2050.
- The laws extends to:
- Extension to emissions from maritime transport.
- Reduction of emissions allowances.
- Implementation of the global carbon offsetting and reduction scheme for international aviation.
- Increase funding for an innovation fund. Revision of the market stability reserve.

Source: Indian Express



5. Tea Plantation

Topic: Agriculture

Parameters	Ideal condition
Climate	Hot, moist climate
pH	Acidic soil
Temperatures	10-30°C
Annual precipitation	1250 mm (minimum)
Slopes	0.5-10°
Elevations	2000

In News: The FSSAI has decided to immediately implement the revised maximum residue limits (MRLs) for these five pesticides in tea.

More on the Topic:

- The pesticides included in the regulation are, Emamectin Benzoate, Fenpyroximate, Hexaconazole, Propiconazole and Quinalphos.
- India is the 2nd largest tea producer and largest black tea producer after China and 4th largest exporter of Tea in the world.

Ideal climate condition for tea cultivation:

- Tea requires cool to warm temperatures with **at least 5 hours of sunlight per day.**
- The **average annual temperature** for tea plants to grow well is in the range of **15 – 23°C.**
- The rainfall needed is **between 150-200 cm.**
- **Area should not be prone to frost.**
- **Soil should be acidic** (around pH 5.0) having good drainage facility.

Source: Business Standard



6. Bluebugging

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: Andhra Pradesh police have cautioned the smartphone users to be aware of Blue bugging.

More on the Topic:

- Bluebugging is a hacking technique that allows individuals to access a device with a discoverable Bluetooth connection.
- Once the target device accesses a rigged link, the attacker can take full control of it.
- The hacker can read and send messages, access the victim's phonebook, and initiate or eavesdrop on phone calls.

Source: Business Standard

7. ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME) 2023

Topic: International Relations



Image: ASEAN

In News: India sent INS Satpura and INS Delhi to participate in the first ever ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME 2023) scheduled from 02 to 08 May 2023.

More on the Topic:

- Scientists have urged Odisha government to immediately come up with a robust protection mechanism before the living fossil becomes extinct due to destructive fishing practices.
- The exercise aims to strengthen India's military cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- The exercise will take place in Singapore and the South China Sea.

Source: Business Standard
