

# 1. Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2022

Topic: Disaster Management



GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR  
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



INDONESIA  
23-28 MAY 2022

**In News:** The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2022 (GP 2022) took place in Indonesia recently.

## More on the Topic:

- GP2022 is the main global forum to assess and discuss progress on the implementation of **the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**.
- The outcome of GP2022 was summarised in the co-chairs' **Bali Agenda for Resilience**.
- **The takeaways of the document were:**
- There is a need for a **whole-of-society approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR)**, ensuring no one is left behind
- **DRR must be at the core of development and finance policies, legislation and plans to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
- **The real cost of disasters is that of inaction**, which must be weighed against investments in DRR.
- **Current greenhouse gas emission levels far exceed their mitigation**, resulting in an increase in frequency and intensity of catastrophic events
- **A participatory and human rights-based approach in DRR planning and implementation is crucial** as people are affected differently by disasters
- There is a need for **the development of multi-hazard early warning systems, inclusive of communities most at risk**.

## Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction:

- SFDRR is an international Treaty that was approved by UN member states in March 2015 at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan.
- It is a **voluntary and non-binding treaty** which recognizes that the UN member State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk.
- It has framework for 15-year i.e. 2015 to 2030.

- It calls for sharing the responsibility with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.

**Four specific priorities of Sendai Framework:**

- Understanding disaster risk
- Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
- Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Source: Indian Express

## 2. Farm Loan Waiver and The Reality

Topic: Economy



**In News:** As per study by State Bank of India’s researchers, only about half of the intended beneficiaries of farm loan waivers announced by nine States since 2014, have actually received debt write-offs.

### More on the Topic:

- The poorest implementation of farm loan waiver schemes in terms of proportion of eligible farmers who had received the announced benefits, were in Telangana (5%), Madhya Pradesh (12%), Jharkhand (13%), Punjab (24%), Karnataka (38%) and Uttar Pradesh (52%).
- By contrast, farm loan waivers implemented by Chhattisgarh in 2018 and Maharashtra in 2020, were received by 100% and 91% of the eligible farmers, respectively.

### The Possible Reasons:

- Rejection of farmers' claims by State Governments, limited or low fiscal space to meet promises, and change in Governments in subsequent years are the possible reasons.

### Other Findings:

- Apart from benefits not reaching the targeted farmers, the report also flagged concerns about whether they actually help farmers in genuine distress.
- Loan waivers **destroy the credit culture** which may harm the farmers' interest in the medium to long term.
- It also **squeezes the fiscal space of governments to increase productive investment in agriculture infrastructure.**

### RBI observations on Farm Loan Waiver:

- RBI, loan waivers **not only inhibit investment in the farm sector but put pressure on the fiscal of states which undertake farm loan waiver.**
- In every state election during the last five years, loan waiver promise made by one political party or other.
- Also, loan waivers, as the RBI has repeatedly argued, **vitiates the credit culture, and stress the budgets of the waiving state or central government.**

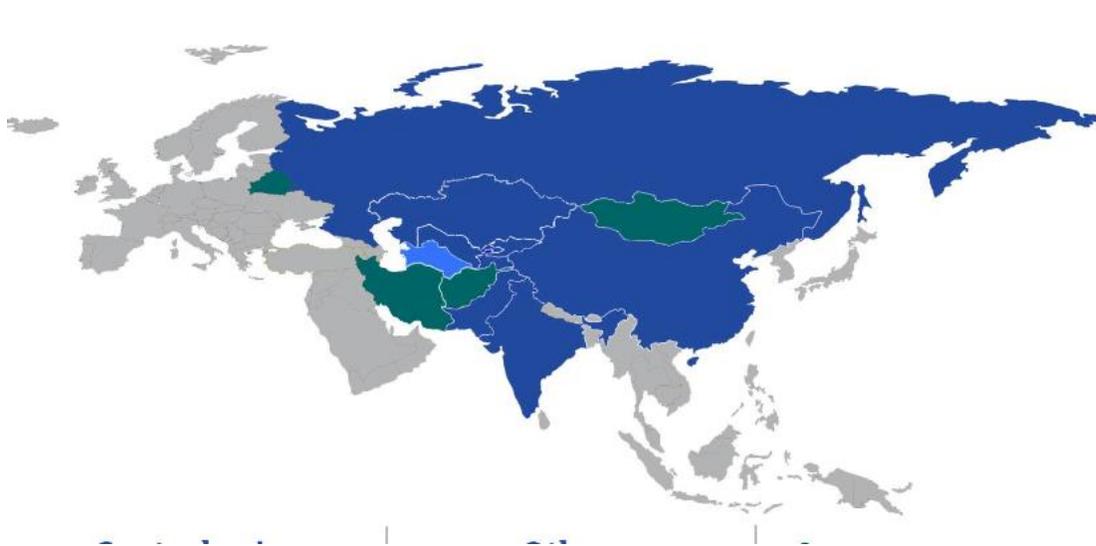
### Way Ahead:

- A waiver only improves a farmer's financial health for a short period of time and "in a matter of time that beneficiary farmer is indebted again and driven to appoint of needing another round of waivers soon.
- Creating a real-time dynamic distress index of farmers and its continuous monitoring is needed. It could integrate available high frequency data on weather conditions, existing and upcoming climatic conditions, debt burden on farmers, and data on agricultural commodities.
- Long-term solutions are needed to solve farmer woes.
- Lasting solutions like building irrigation capabilities and cold storage chains, increased crop insurance coverage, farm infrastructure building, tech-enabled productivity improvement and opening the sector to market forces and open trade can help the farmers in the long run as a better option.

Source: Indian Express

## 2. Shanghai Cooperation Organization

**Topic: International Relations**



**In News:** The holy city of Varanasi showcasing India's culture and traditions over the ages will be declared the first "Cultural and Tourism Capital" of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

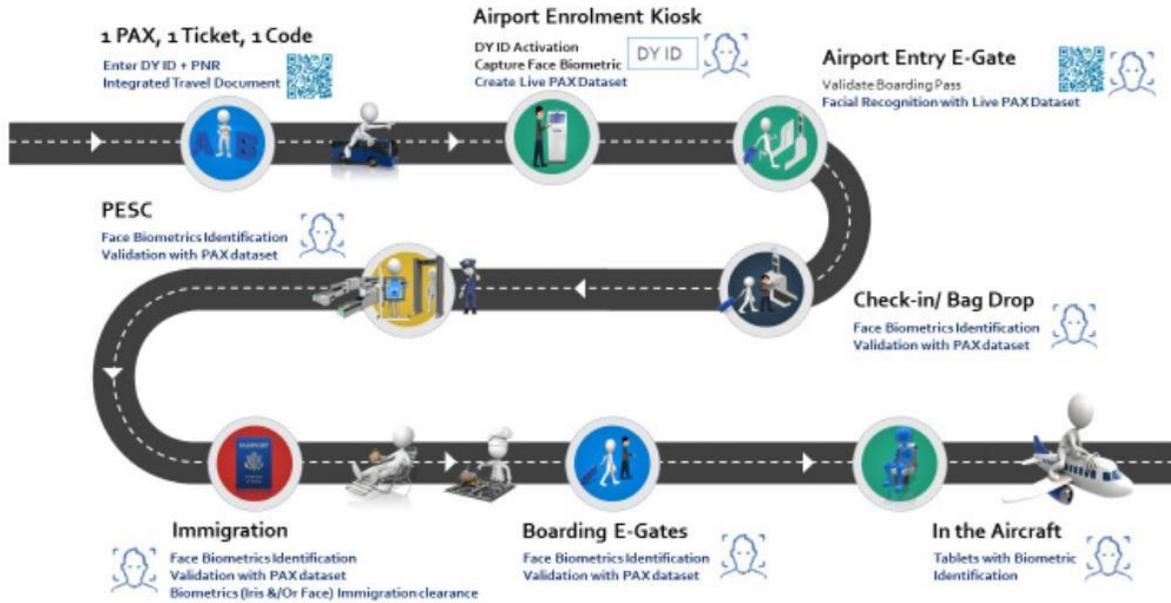
### More on the Topic:

- **The Beijing-headquartered Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is an eight-member economic and security alliance** comprising China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.
- The official working language of the SCO Secretariat is Russian and Chinese.
- The SCO is the **successor to the Shanghai Five**, a mutual security agreement formed in 1996 between China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.
- On 15 June 2001, the leaders of these nations and Uzbekistan met in Shanghai to announce a new organisation with deeper political and economic cooperation; the SCO Charter was signed on 7 July 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003.
- Its membership has since expanded to eight states, with **India and Pakistan joining on 9 June 2017**. Several countries are engaged as observers or partners.

**Source: Hindu**

## 4. 'DIGI YATRA'

**Topic: Science and Technology**



**In News:** ‘Civil Aviation Ministry will roll out the DIGI YATRA project, aimed at achieving “contactless, seamless processing of passengers,” at two airports — Varanasi and Bengaluru -- in August this year as part of its first phase.

### More on the Topic:

- The contactless and seamless processing of passengers will be achieved via the facial recognition technology (FRT).
- The project will use facial features to establish the identity of the traveller, which will be linked to the boarding pass.
- Voluntary for passengers to choose whether to opt for facial recognition biometric for air travel.
- Real-time notifications about flight congestion and delays will be provided.
- Passengers will be notified when their luggage reaches the baggage claim belt.

**Source: Indian Express**

## 5. Zero coupon, zero principal bond declared securities

Topic: Economy



**In News:** The Finance Ministry has declared zero coupon zero principal instruments (ZCZP) as securities.

### More on the Topic:

- Zero coupon zero principal instrument means an instrument issued by a Not for Profit Organisation (NPO) which will be registered with the social stock exchange segment of a recognised stock exchange.
- These instruments will be governed by rules made by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

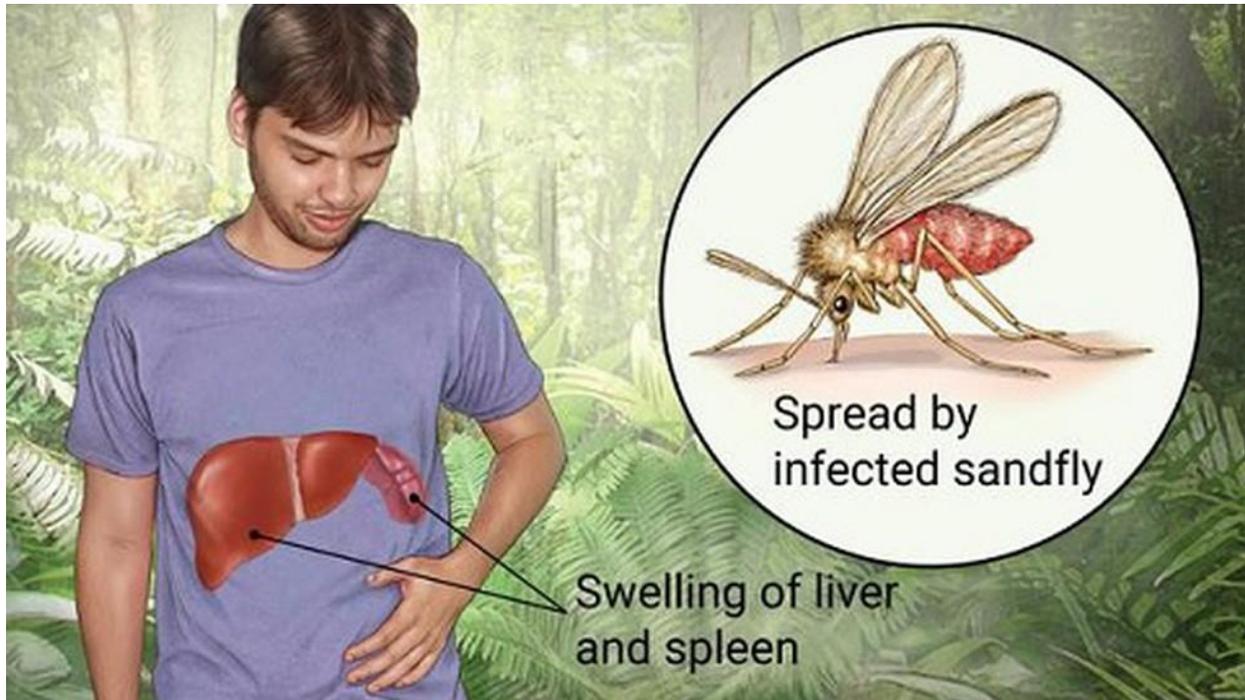
### The Social Stock Exchange:

- **The Social Stock Exchange (SSE) is a novel concept in India and such a bourse is meant to serve private and non-profit sector providers** by channelling greater capital to them.
- The idea was floated by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget Speech 2019-20.
- Social enterprises eligible to participate in the SSE should be entities -- **NPOs and for-profit social enterprises -- having social intent and impact as their primary goal.**
- Also, such an intent should be demonstrated through its focus on eligible social objectives for the under served or less privileged populations or regions.
- The social enterprises will have to engage in a social activity out of the list of 15 broad activities approved by Sebi.
- NPOs desirous of raising funds on the SSE will required to be registered with the exchange.

**Source: Business Standard**

## 6. Kala-azar or black fever

Topic: Health



**In News:** Eleven districts of Bengal reported at least 65 cases of black fever or 'Kala-Azar' disease in the last couple of weeks.

### More on the Topic:

- A disease caused by infection with **leishmania parasites**.
- Visceral leishmaniasis is **spread by sandfly bites**. This type of leishmaniasis affects the internal organs, usually the spleen, liver and bone marrow.
- Some people have no symptoms. For others, symptoms may include fever, weight loss and swelling of the spleen or liver.
- Medication exists to kill the parasites. If left untreated, severe cases are typically fatal.

**Source:** Business Standard

## 7. Sannati Buddhist Site

**Topic: Culture**



**In News:** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has come up with a plan to conserve the excavated Stupa remains at Kanaganahalli near Sannati at Chittapur taluk in Kalaburagi district.

**More on the Topic:**

- The ancient Buddhist site on the bank of Bhima river.
- The stupa was built with **locally available limestone**. Most of the dome slabs, drum slabs, inscribed sculptures and other structural remains were in a broken state when they were retrieved.
- **The Kanaganahalli excavation opened up many marvels.** For example the magnificent **Maha Stupa, which was referred to as Adholoka Maha Chaitya** (the Great Stupa of the netherworlds) in the inscriptions and, more significantly, **the stone-portrait of Emperor Ashoka**, surrounded by his queens and female attendants.
- While the Stupa is believed to be one of the largest of its time, the stone-portrait is considered to be the only surviving image of the Mauryan Emperor which had the **inscription 'Raya Asoko' in Brahmi on it.**

**Source: Business Standard**