

17-01-2023

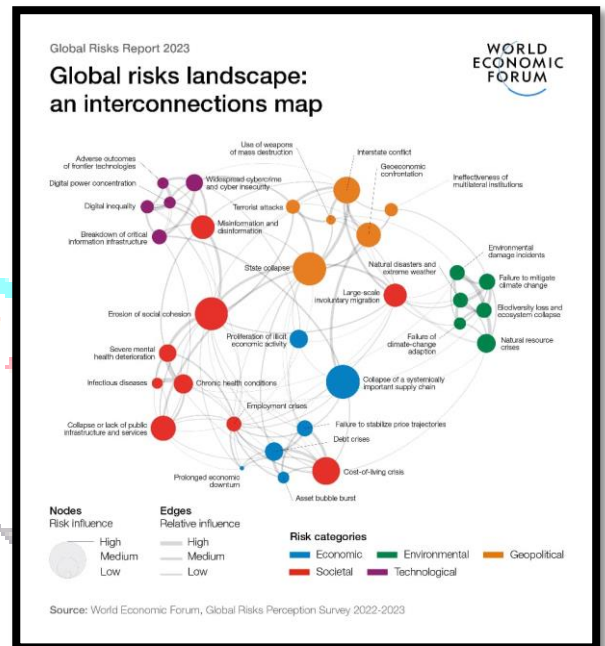
Global Risk Report - 2023

Why in Newspapers?

The annual Global Risks Report 2023 released by the World Economic Forum has found that **cost of living and climate change are the two biggest global risks in the short term (2 years) and long term (10 years) respectively.** There are threats (Global Risk).

Quick Issue?

- The 18th edition of the Global Risk Report 2023 is based on the Global Risk Perception Survey (GRPS).
- WEF report titled 'Co-operation in a Fragmented World' has been released ahead of the Davos-2023 meeting.

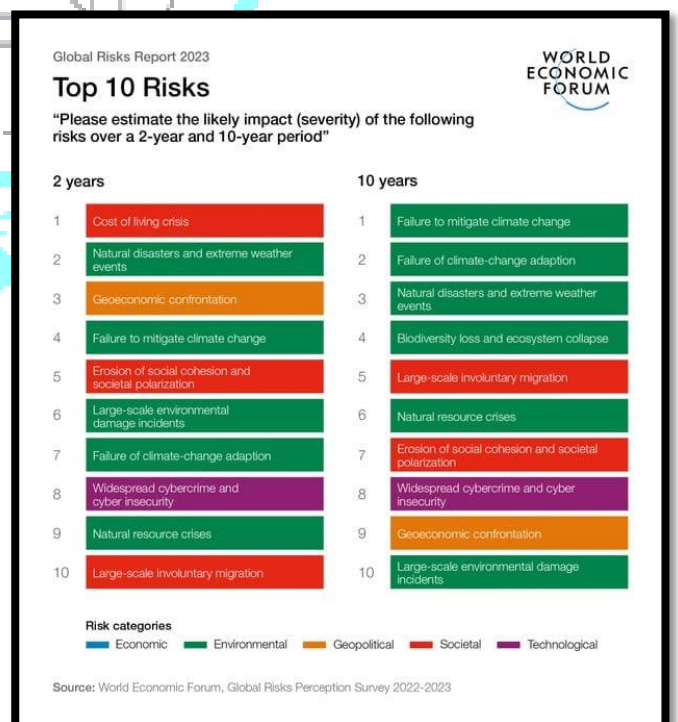


Historical Background?

- 'Failure to mitigate climate change' and 'Failure to adapt to climate change' are the two most serious risks facing the world in the

next decade, followed by 'Natural disasters and extreme weather events' and 'Biodiversity and ecosystem loss'. There is also a risk of 'collapse'.

- Currently atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have reached record highs.
- The emissions trajectory makes it unlikely that the global ambition to limit warming to 1.5°C will be achieved.
- The world has struggled to make necessary progress on climate change despite global climate advocacy and diplomacy for 30 years.
- Failure on climate action to address climate change is one of the report's top risks since 2011.
- Biodiversity within ecosystems is declining at a faster rate than at any other time during human history.





- But unlike other climate related risks, '**biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse**' is not considered a concern in the short term.
 - It was ranked as the **fourth most serious risk** in the long term or in the next **ten years (up to 2033)**.
- **Socio-economic short-term crises** due to **geopolitical tensions and increasing demands on public and private sector** resources are poised to further reduce the pace and scale of mitigation efforts over the next two years.
 - In some cases it has **reversed progress on climate change mitigation in the short term**.
- The European Union, for example, has spent **at least 50 billion euros on new and expanded fossil-fuel infrastructure and supplies**.
 - Some countries, including **Austria, Italy, the Netherlands and France**, have restarted the **operation of coal-fired power stations**.
- In the next 10 years or by the year 2033, a **dangerous combination of interrelationships between biodiversity loss, pollution, consumption of natural resources, climate change and socioeconomic factors is expected to form**.
- Meanwhile in Europe **the global pandemic and war are being blamed for energy, inflation and food crisis**. In fact the '**cost of living**' (over the next two years) may be the **most important short-term global risk**.
- Failure to curb climate change is also a **major global risk** for which the world is unprepared.
 - **70% of respondents to WEF research** believed that current initiatives to mitigate or combat climate change have been "**ineffective**" or "**highly ineffective**".

Other Key Facts?

World Economic Forum

- The **World Economic Forum** is a **Swiss non-profit and international organization**. It was **established in the year 1971**. Its headquarter is in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- It is **recognized by the Swiss/Switzerland authorities** as an **International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation**.
- **Mission:-** The Forum provides a common platform to **leading political, business, social and academic leaders to shape the global, regional and industrial agenda**.
- **Founder and Executive Chairman:** Klaus Schwab
- Other reports to be **released by the World Economic Forum:**
 - Energy Transition Index.
 - Global Competitiveness Report.
 - Global IT Report.
- The report is published by **WEF in association with INSEAD and Cornell University**.
- **Global Gender Gap Report**.
- **Global Travel & Tourism Report**.

United Nations World Social Report 2023

Why in Newspapers?

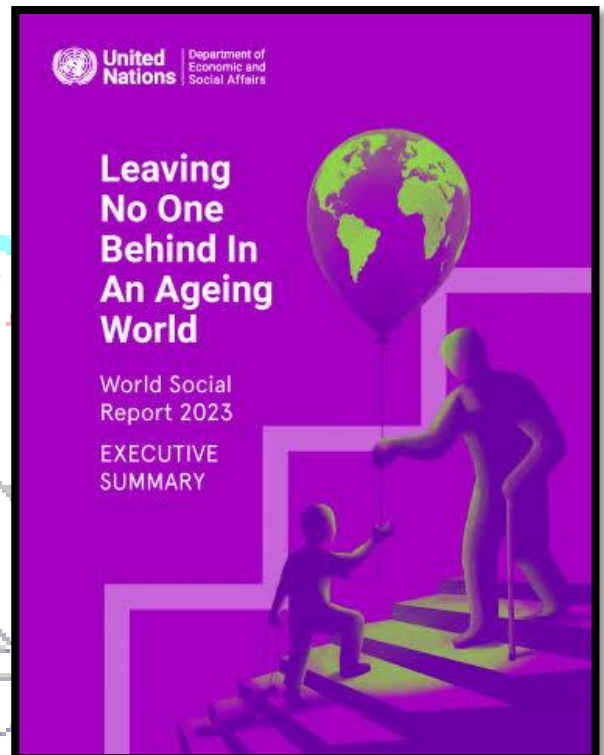
According to the **World Social Report 2023**, people are living to an **older age than ever before**. But, at the same time, there has been a **huge jump in pensions, cost of living and health care**. The report says that by **promoting equal opportunities from birth, everyone can be given better facilities even as they grow older in better health**, which in turn can benefit countries.

Quick Issue?

- The report recommended that **countries should reconsider long-standing policies and practices related to livelihoods and work**. Now is the time when the number of people **aged 65 and over is projected to more than double by the middle of the century**.

Historical Background?

- According to a study published by the **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs**, population aging is a **well-known global trend of our times**.
- Together, we can address today's inequalities, **manage the challenges and opportunities of population aging for the benefit of tomorrow's generations**, said Li Junhua, **UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs can be redeemed**.
- In 2021, there were **761 million people aged 65 and over worldwide**, which will **increase to 1.6 billion by 2050**. The report states that the number of **people aged 80 years or more is increasing even more rapidly**.
- People are **living longer due to improvements in health and medical treatments, greater access to education, and declining fertility**.
- Worldwide, the life expectancy of a child born in 2021 is, on average, **25 years longer than that of a child born in 1950**, meaning they are likely to live up to the age of 71. **Women live an average of five years longer than men**.
- According to the report, **the number of older people is expected to increase rapidly in the next 30 years in North Africa, West Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa**. At the same time, **Europe and North America have the largest number of elderly people**.
- There are a **large number of old people who are in excellent health and are economically active**, but **others suffer from diseases and poverty**.





- This change is visible due to improvements in health, medical treatment, better access to education and decline in fertility, the report says.
- The age of the population is increasing due to progress in the health and education sector, but the benefits of these improvements are not reaching everyone equally.
- In more developed areas, pension and other public transfer systems provide more than two thirds of consumption by older persons. Their counterparts in less developed areas tend to work longer hours and rely more heavily on the wealth they have accumulated or on family support.
- A growing global population also means an increase in the need for long-term care, which has been a weak link during the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, public expenditure in most countries is not sufficient to meet the growing demand.
- Life expectancy is influenced by factors such as income, education, gender, ethnicity and place of residence. Some of these causes, the researchers say, occur together, often causing systemic damage that begins early in life.
- He warned that without policies to prevent them, these systemic disadvantages reinforce each other throughout people's lives, increasing inequalities in old age. As a result, progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) may be at risk, especially reducing inequalities which is contained in SDG 10.
- The report said that the authorities should also reconsider the social security systems including pension provision. Maintaining the fiscal sustainability of the public pension system while ensuring income security for all older persons, including workers in informal employment, is a major challenge, the researchers said.
- Expanding opportunities for decent work for women and other groups traditionally excluded from the formal job market. Its objective is to secure their well-being as they grow older and to expand the productive capacity of the economy.
- The analysis suggests that the significant contribution of the informal care sector to the formal economy should also be properly recognised.
- According to the report, many governments are already offering opportunities for lifelong learning, as well as the chance to take full advantage of working generations.

Other Key Facts?

Current Schemes Related to Aging Population

- Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)
 - Integrated program for older persons
 - Sampann Project (SAMPANN Project)
 - 'SACRED' portal for senior citizens Elder Line (All India Toll Free Number for Elderly Help)
- Based on the Madrid International Plan of Action on Living, the World Health Organization and the United Nations have declared the years 2021-2030 as the Decade of Aging or Living in Good Health. This is a positive step towards the empowerment of senior citizens.

Skyhawk Drone

Why in Newspapers?

Startup firm IG Drones, which started from the **Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT)** campus in **Odisha's Sambalpur**, has developed a **5G-enabled drone** capable of **vertical take-off and landing**.

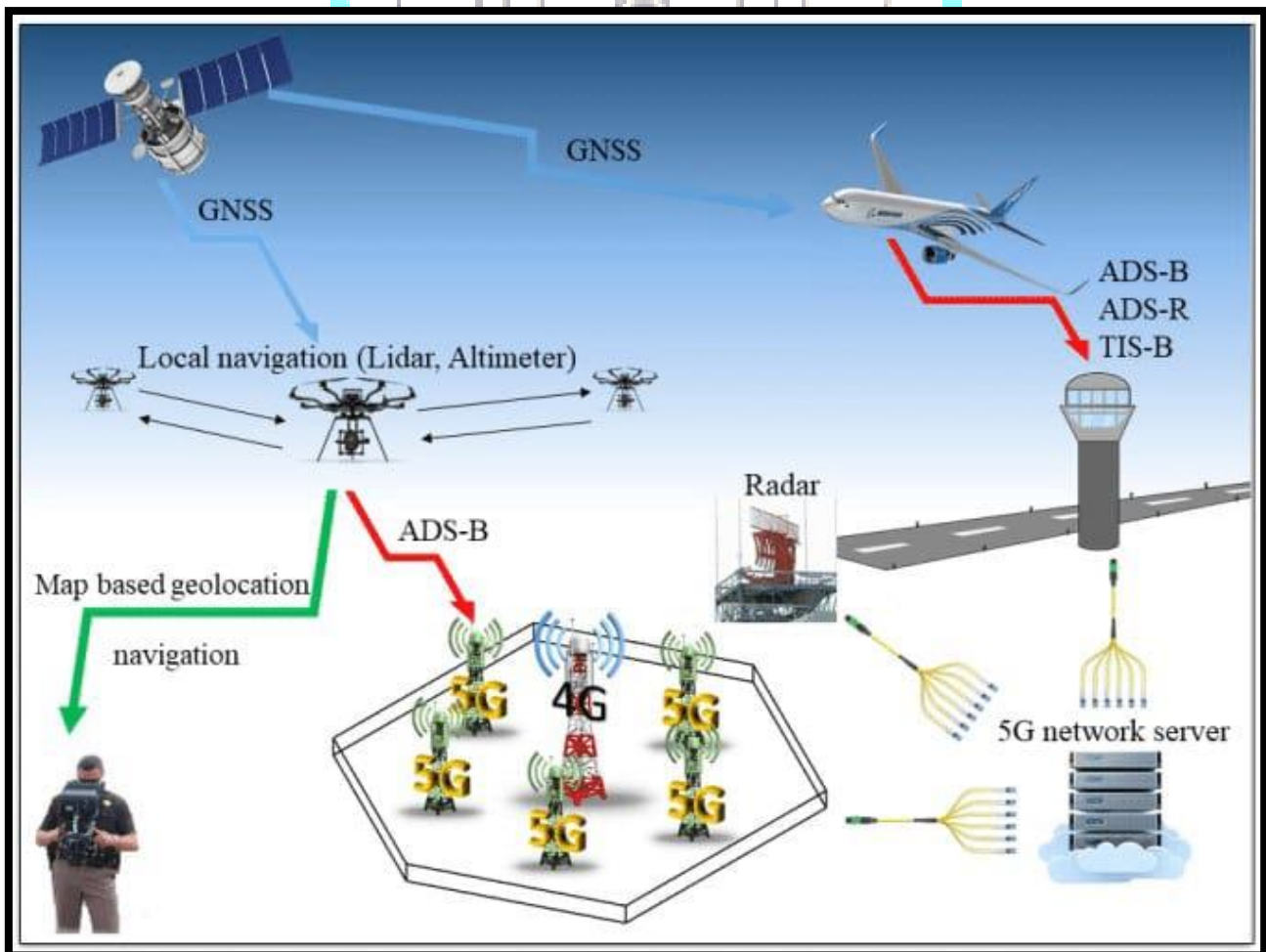
Quick Issue?

- The drone named **Skyhawk** can be used in defence and medical applications, among other areas.



Historical Background?

- The Skyhawk drone can carry a **payload of 10 kg** and **can operate for about five hours**.
- It is a **VTOL (Vertical Take-off and Landing)**, it can be operated from any terrain **without the need of conventional runways**.
- According to the company, in addition to the **artificial intelligence** and **thermal imaging capabilities**, the drone can also be used for monitoring border intrusions and during routine patrolling by defence forces.





- It is IP67 rated and can be controlled through a combination of **NavIC + GPS navigation satellites** which remain connected in the upper **limit of 50 to 60 seconds** in case of safe activation.
- The Skyhawk has been developed keeping in mind the **needs of the defence and medical sectors**. It is also **ideal for border surveillance and defence operations**.
- The drone is also **able to operate via satellites in case internet link is not available**, which makes it useful in remote areas.
- Additionally, **the speed and range of the drone make it suitable for the delivery of medical services**.

Other Key Facts?

Application of 5G in Drone

- The use of 5G technology in the drone gives a **lot of precision in controlling the drone**. These drones can be **controlled directly from the command center** instead of being in the field.
- Additionally, **5G networks allow for faster communication between the drone and the control center**, which can be critical in time-sensitive operations such as border surveillance and delivery of medical services.

