

## WHO 5-Year Milestone Report on Global Trans Fat Elimination 2023

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has published a milestone report summarizing the progress made over the past five years toward the global elimination of industrially produced trans-fatty acids (TFA).
  - The report highlights the positive impacts on public health.
- **About Trans-Fatty Acids (TFA)**
  - **Sources:** TFAs are unsaturated fatty acids found in both industrial and natural sources.
  - **Industrial TFA:** Created by adding hydrogen to liquid vegetable oils, making them more solid and extending the shelf life of foods.
  - **Natural TFA:** Found in meat and dairy products from ruminant animals like cows, sheep, and goats.
  - **WHO Recommendation:** Adults should limit their trans fat intake to less than 1% of their total energy consumption.
- **Key Highlights of the Report**
  - **Policy Implementation:** By late 2023, WHO's best-practice policies for eliminating trans fat were implemented in 53 countries, covering about 46% of the global population.
  - **Impact in India:** Approximately 4.63% of coronary heart disease deaths in India are linked to TFA consumption.

## ULLAS - New India Literacy Programme (NILP)

- **Ladakh** has reached full functional literacy through the **ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**, also known as the New India Literacy Programme (NILP).
- **Functional Literacy**
  - Functional literacy involves the ability to use reading and writing skills for personal and community development.
- **ULLAS-NILP Overview**
  - **Launch:** **Ministry of Education** launched this program to address all aspects of Education for All.
  - **Type:** centrally sponsored scheme.
  - **Tenure:** The program runs from the fiscal year 2022-23 to 2026-27.
  - **Beneficiaries:** It targets non-literates aged 15 years and above.
  - **Components:** The program includes five main areas:
    - Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
    - Critical Life Skills
    - Basic Education
    - Vocational Skills
    - Continuing Education
  - **Implementation:** The program is carried out through volunteerism, primarily using online methods.

## India's External Debt: March 2024 Update

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released data on India's external debt as of the end of March 2024.
- **Key Highlights (March 2024 vs. March 2023)**
  - **Total External Debt:** India's external debt stood at \$663.8 billion, an increase of \$39.7 billion from the previous year.
  - **Debt to GDP Ratio:** The ratio of external debt to GDP decreased to 18.7% from 19%.
  - **Debt Composition:** The share of long-term debt increased, while short-term debt decreased.
  - **Currency Denomination:** Debt denominated in US dollars remained the largest portion at 53.8%, followed by debt in Indian rupees, yen, Special Drawing Rights (SDR), and euros.

## Exercise HOPEX

- Exercise **HOPEX** is a joint military exercise between the **Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Egyptian Air Force**.
- **Aim:** To promote bilateral and regional cooperation.
- **Location:** Egypt

## 'Hydrogen Economy'

- Researchers at **IISER Tirupati** have developed a method to produce hydrogen gas from methanol and paraformaldehyde under mild conditions.
  - This method is effective for the transfer hydrogenation of alkynes to alkenes.
- **Significance of Hydrogen Generation:**
  - Hydrogen gas has the potential to replace fossil fuels in energy storage, transportation, and various chemical processes.
  - Methanol and paraformaldehyde are viable hydrogen carriers due to their large-scale production and abundance.
- **Impact on Sustainable Energy Solutions:**
  - This development contributes to CO<sub>x</sub>-free hydrogen generation.
  - It marks a significant step towards the advancement of a '**Hydrogen economy**' and sustainable energy solutions.

## Migration and Development Brief 2024

- Released by the **World Bank**
- **Key Highlights**
  - **Remittances:**
    - Remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) reached \$656 billion.
    - **The top five recipient countries are:** India: \$120 billion, Mexico, China, Philippines, Pakistan
  - **Migration:**
    - **Top destination countries for migrants are:** United States, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Russia, United Kingdom.
  - **Largest origin countries for migrants are:** India: 18.7 million emigrants, Ukraine, China, Mexico, Venezuela.
    - **The largest migration corridor is from Mexico to the United States.**

## Prohibition of Insider Trading (PIT) Regulations

- **Amendments by SEBI,**
  - SEBI has updated the PIT regulations to provide more flexibility for insiders when creating trading plans.
  - An insider is typically a senior manager or official in a company with access to **unpublished price-sensitive information (UPSIs)**.
  - PIT regulations restrict the timeframe during which insiders can trade to prevent insider trading.
  - Insiders must submit a **trading plan in advance, detailing the share price, quantity, and transaction date.**
  - These amendments help insiders trade securities in compliance with regulations.

## NPS Sees Over 110,000 New Subscribers in April, Reports NSO

- In **April, 110,655** new subscribers joined the NPS, with state government employees making up nearly two-thirds of these new members.
  - **Overall, 937,000 subscribers** joined the NPS in FY24, a 13.6% increase from the 824,700 subscribers in the previous financial year.
- **About National Pension System (NPS)**
  - The National Pension System (NPS), launched on January 1, 2004.
  - **Aim** - to provide retirement income to all citizens. Initially, it was available only to new government employees (excluding armed forces).
    - Since **May 1, 2009**, the NPS has been **open to all citizens**, including unorganized sector workers, on a voluntary basis.
  - **Managed by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority**
  - **Eligibility:** Open to Indian citizens aged 18 to 70, Not available to Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs).
  - The NPS operates on a defined contribution basis, where both the subscriber and the employer contribute equally to the account.
    - The NPS is mandatory for new Union government employees.
  - The corporate sector can join the NPS voluntarily, including those working in public sector organizations, private companies, and public sector banks.