

December - 13

INTERNATIONAL

Iran's Morality Police

- ❖ Iran's Attorney General Mohammad Jafar Montazeri hinted at the suspension of the country's morality police after widespread protests.
- ❖ Iran's morality police are formally known as Gasht-e-Ershad (Guidance Patrol).
- ❖ It was established to "spread the culture of modesty and hijab", the mandatory female head covering.
- ❖ They began patrols in 2006.
- ❖ Under Sharia law – the Islamic law that governs Iran – women are required to cover their hair and wear loose-fitting clothes.
- ❖ The hijab was made mandatory for women in 1983, a few years after the 1979 Islamic Revolution.



Members of the morality police — **known formally as the Gasht-e Ershad** — enforce the strict dress code. They have been criticized for their heavy-handed treatment of women.



In 2017, women publicly took off their headscarves in a wave of protests. Since then, authorities have adopted tougher measures and violators face public rebuke, fines or arrest.

In Dec 2022, the mortality police is being disbanded, according to the country's chief prosecutor Mohamed Jafar Montazeri.



ENVIRONMENT

Global status of black soils

- ❖ The report titled "Global Status of Black Soils" was released by the Food and Agriculture Organization.
- ❖ Black soils are characterized by thick, dark-coloured soil horizon rich in organic matter.



- ❖ They are extremely fertile and capable of producing high agricultural yields because of their high moisture storing capacity.
- ❖ They account for 5.6 per cent of global soils and contain 8.2 per cent of the world’s soil organic carbon (SOC) stocks.
- ❖ Black soils, which feed the global population, are threatened since most of them have lost at least 50 per cent of their soil organic carbon (SOC) stocks.
- ❖ Black soils are home to around 2.86 per cent of the global population.
- ❖ It supports over 17.36 per cent of cropland, 8.05 per cent of global SOC stock and 30.06 per cent SOC stock of global cropland.
- ❖ Despite representing only, a small portion of the world’s soils, black soils play a major role in global food security and economic growth.
- ❖ Europe and Eurasia account for 70% of the black soils in the total cropland.
- ❖ North America, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia have 10 per cent each.

Table 2.1 Top ten countries with the largest black soil areas

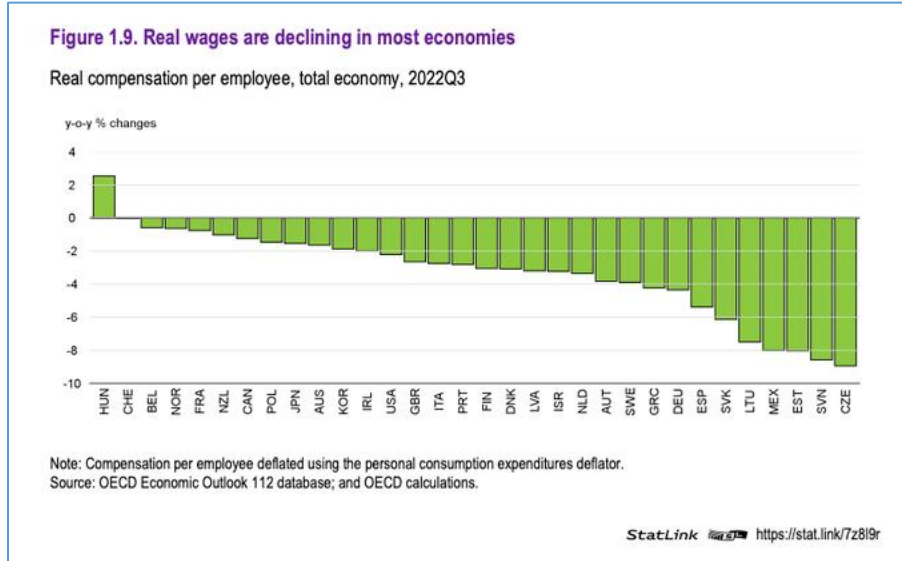
Country	Black soil area (million hectare)	Country area (million hectare)	Black soil proportion (percentage)
Russian Federation	326.8	1700.2	19.22
Kazakhstan	107.7	283.9	37.93
China	50	934.6	5.35
Argentina	39.7	278.1	14.28
Mongolia	38.6	156.5	24.67
Ukraine	34.2	60	57.01
United States of America	31.2	950.1	3.28
Colombia	24.5	113.8	21.54
Canada	13	997.5	1.30
Mexico	11.9	196.4	6.04

REPORTS AND INDICES

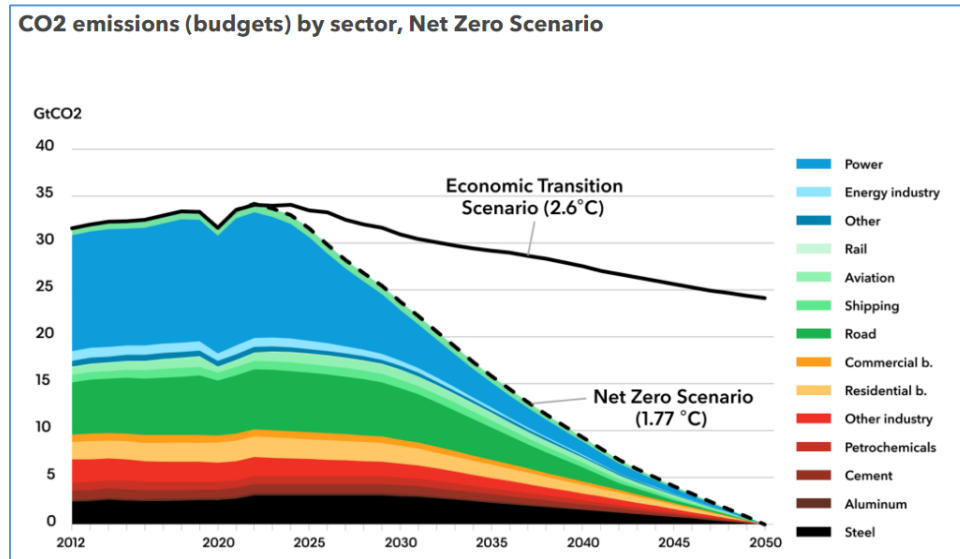
Global Wage Report 2022-2023

- ❖ The report titled the “Global Wage Report 2022-2023: The Impact of inflation and COVID-19 on wages and purchasing power” was released by ILO.
- ❖ Global wages declined in 2022 for the first time since the 2008 global financial crisis due to increasing living expenses.
- ❖ This is threatening to worsen inequality and trigger social unrest.
- ❖ The countries that witnessed a fall in minimum wages include Bulgaria, Spain, Sri Lanka, South Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- ❖ The overall wages were lower in real terms in 2022 when compared with 2008 in countries like the UK, Italy, Japan and Mexico.

- ❖ The year 2022 recorded the biggest gap between real labour productivity growth and the real wage growth in high-income countries since 1999.
- ❖ There is a wide gap between the average level of real wages of the emerging G20 countries and that of the advanced G20 economies.



New Energy Outlook report 2022



- ❖ The global, clean energy research provider BloombergNEF released New Energy Outlook Report 2022.
- ❖ The greenhouse gas emissions from developing countries, especially India, is expected to continue to increase until the end of 2030.
- ❖ The emissions will decline in these countries only in the early 2030s.

- ❖ Since emissions in Europe, the United States, Australia and Japan has already peaked in 2022, they are expected to decline rapidly in the following years.
- ❖ In China, the emissions are expected to peak in 2022 and stabilize for a while before they realign with developed countries' trajectories.
- ❖ Limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C cannot be easily achieved.
- ❖ It is possible to maintain the global temperature increase to 1.77°C if pro-active actions are taken.
- ❖ However, investment in the clean energy sector must be three times higher than fossil fuels to achieve the Net Zero Target by 2050.
- ❖ Emissions need to decline by 30 per cent by the end of this decade and overall, by 6 per cent a year to 2040.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

BBC 100 Most Influential Women's List



- ❖ The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has published the list of 100 most influential women in the world.
- ❖ It includes four Indians: Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, author Geetanjali Shree, engineer and astronaut Sirisha Bandla, and social worker Sneha Jawale.
- ❖ The theme for '100 Women' in 2022 is progress.

Earthshot Prize 2022

- ❖ An Indian firm is among the five startups that have been announced as winners of Prince William's Earthshot Prize.
- ❖ This prize aims to reward projects that aim to save the planet.

- ❖ Kheyti, an Indian startup that designed the "greenhouse-in-a-box" for small hold farmers, won in the Protect and Restore Nature category.
- ❖ Last year, India-based project Takachar winning the prize for the Clean Our Air category.



SHE STEM 2022



- ❖ SHE STEM is the annual event to celebrate women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and sustainability.
- ❖ As part of the Sweden India Nobel Memorial Week, the event was successfully held for the third year in a row.
- ❖ The annual event is organised by the Sweden Embassy in India in partnership with the Atal Innovation Mission and the German Centre of Innovation and Research.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Anti-Corruption Day - December 09

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of corruption and of the role of the Convention in combating and preventing it.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption on October 31, 2003.
- ❖ This year, the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) will also mark its twentieth anniversary.
- ❖ The theme for this year is “UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption”.



International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime - December 09

- ❖ It is observed to raise awareness about the greatest crime perpetrated by man against man, the violation of human rights and how it can be prevented in the future.

- ❖ On December 9, 1948, the United Nations adopted the first human rights treaty, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the “Genocide Convention”).
- ❖ 2022 marks its 74th anniversary.
- ❖ The UNGA with a resolution in 2015 adopted this day.



MISCELLANEOUS

Bansilalpet Stepwell

- ❖ The Bansilalpet stepwell and precinct restoration project in Secunderabad (Telangana) received the prestigious Big 5 Construction Impact Award in Dubai.
- ❖ The seventeenth-century stepwell, which had turned into a dump yard over the last four decades.
- ❖ Over the last year, it was restored to its original glory.

