



# CONCEPTS IN NEWS

## MARCH, 2024



### Economy

Concepts	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
Circular Economy	An economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources, by reusing and recycling products.	An economy that tries to get rid of waste by making sure that products and materials keep being used over and over.
Green credit	A type of permit that represents a company's investment in environmental sustainability initiatives, which can be traded in the marketplace.	Certificates that companies earn by doing good things for the environment, which they can sell to others who need to offset their pollution.
Base Erosion and Profit Shifting	A tax avoidance strategy used by multinational companies, that exploits gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax locations.	When big companies play with the tax rules to move their profits around the world and pay less tax.
Cash Management Bills	Short-term government securities issued to meet temporary cash shortfalls.	A quick way for the government to borrow money for a short time when it's a bit low on cash.
Bitcoin Halving	An event that halves the rate at which new bitcoins are created, occurring approximately every four years, which affects the scarcity and price.	A built-in feature of Bitcoin that cuts the number of new bitcoins made in half every few years, making them rarer and potentially more valuable.
Care Economy	The sector of the economy that encompasses paid and unpaid services related to childcare, eldercare, and care for the disabled.	The part of the economy that deals with taking care of kids, older people, and those with disabilities, whether it's paid work or not.



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Warehouse Receipts	Documents issued by warehouses to depositors of commodities certifying the quantity and quality of stored goods, which can be used for trade or as collateral for loans.	Papers that prove you've stored something like grain or metal in a warehouse, which you can use to do business or get a loan.
Dual-use goods	Products and technologies that can be used for both civilian and military applications.	Stuff that can be used for everyday purposes but also in the military, like computers or trucks.
Bioeconomy	An economy where the basic building blocks for materials, chemicals, and energy are derived from renewable biological resources.	An economy that relies on plants and other renewable biological stuff to make things like fuel, plastics, and chemicals instead of oil or coal.
Sea Lines of Communication	Primary maritime routes between ports, used for trade, logistics, and naval operations.	The main paths ships take across the ocean to move goods, military supplies, or for navy travels.
Blue Credit	A type of environmental asset that represents a company's investment in sustainability initiatives related to water preservation.	A credit companies can get for doing good things to save and protect water resources.
Venture Capital Fund	A fund that invests in early-stage companies with high growth potential.	A pot of money used to support new companies that could grow really big.
Carbon Trading	A market-based system for reducing emissions by allowing the trade of emission allowances.	Buying and selling the right to let out carbon dioxide as a way to help the environment.
Insurance penetration vs Insurance density	Measures assessing the reach and depth of the insurance sector within a market or population.	How common insurance is in a place and how much money is spent on it compared to everything else or per person.
Bioeconomy	An economy centered around the use of renewable biological resources and ecological principles.	An economy that's all about using plants and other renewable resources in ways that are good for the environment.
Circular Economy	An economic model that involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible.	An economy that focuses on using things for as long as possible and not wasting resources.
Waste to Energy	The process of creating energy in the form of electricity or heat from the incineration of waste.	Getting power or heat from burning trash instead of letting it pile up.
Gig Economy	A labor market characterized by the prevalence of short-term contracts or freelance work as opposed to permanent jobs.	Where people work temporary jobs or "gigs" rather than having long-term employment.
Climate Finance	Investments and financial support for projects and policies that facilitate climate mitigation and adaptation.	Money that goes into projects to help fight climate change or deal with its impacts.
Negative Interest	Interest rates below zero, which can happen when people are charged to deposit money instead of being paid interest.	When banks charge you money for keeping your money there, rather than paying you interest.
Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)	Natural gas that has been converted into liquid form for ease of storage or transport.	Gas that's been turned into a liquid to make it easier to store and move around.
Global Stocktake	An assessment process under the Paris Agreement to periodically take stock of the implementation of the agreement and to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the agreement.	A regular check-up to see how the world is doing at stopping climate change according to the Paris Agreement.
Multilateral Finance Mechanisms	Financial instruments that involve multiple countries or international institutions to fund development projects or address global issues.	When a bunch of countries or big international groups put money together to fund big projects or solve worldwide problems.
Fabrication Units	Facilities where goods are manufactured or assembled.	Places where products are put together or made.
Social Bonds	Bonds issued to finance projects that have positive social outcomes.	Loans that people can invest in to fund projects that help society, like affordable housing or schools.



Debt Securities	Financial instruments indicating a debt, which the issuer is obligated to pay back with a set of terms, including the repayment date and interest payments.	Things you can buy like an IOU, where the seller promises to pay you back with interest by a certain date.
Domestic Systemically Important Insurers	Insurance companies that are too important to the financial system of a country, and their failure could cause significant disruption.	Big insurance companies that are so crucial that if they fail, it could cause a lot of trouble for the economy.
Unicorns	Startups valued at over one billion dollars without being listed on the stock market.	New companies that aren't sold on the stock market but are still worth more than a billion dollars.
Domestic Systemically Important Insurers	Insurance firms that are critical to the functioning of a country's financial system and whose failure would have widespread repercussions.	Super important insurance companies that have to be looked after because if they go down, they could take a lot of other things with them.



## Environment

Concepts	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
Ecocide	The extensive damage to, destruction of, or loss of ecosystem(s) of a given territory to such an extent that peaceful enjoyment by the inhabitants has been or will be severely diminished.	Serious harm to the environment, which messes up ecosystems so much that people can't live happily there anymore.
Blue-green algae	Common name for cyanobacteria, which are microscopic, photosynthetic organisms found in freshwater and marine systems.	Tiny organisms that live in water, can make their own food from sunlight, and sometimes bloom so much they turn the water green.
Amphipods	A diverse group of small, shrimp-like crustaceans found in aquatic environments.	Little critters similar to shrimp that live in water.
Nano Urea	A form of urea fertilizer where the nitrogen is encapsulated at the nano scale to increase its efficiency and reduce its environmental impact.	A special kind of plant food that's made super small so plants can use it better and it's less harmful to the planet.
Rat-hole mining	A primitive method of mining that involves digging very small tunnels, usually done in some coal-producing regions.	A dangerous and old-fashioned way of mining by digging tiny tunnels, often used to get coal.
Geoheritage Sites	Locations with significant geological features representing Earth's history and providing scientific value.	Places on Earth that show off the planet's natural history and teach us about the past.
Global Seed Vault	A secure seed bank aiming to preserve a wide variety of plant seeds from potential global catastrophes.	A safety deposit box for plant seeds from all over the world, keeping them safe in case of big trouble.
E-waste	Discarded electronic appliances such as mobile phones, computers, and televisions.	Old, thrown-out electronic stuff like phones and computers.
Extended Producer Responsibility	An environmental policy approach where producers are given a significant responsibility for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products.	When companies that make things are also responsible for dealing with them after we throw them away.
Peatlands	Wetlands with a thick water-logged organic soil layer made up of dead and decaying plant material.	Wet areas where a lot of dead plants pile up and don't fully decompose.
Seaweed	Algae that grow in the sea or in brackish water, often used in food and other products.	Big algae from the ocean that can be used for food, medicine, and more.





Marine Heatwaves	Periods of extremely high temperatures in the ocean, which can lead to widespread marine ecosystem damage.	Times when the ocean gets unusually hot, which can harm sea life.
Milankovitch Cycles	The cyclical movement related to the Earth's orbit around the sun, which affects the planet's climate over tens of thousands of years.	Long-term patterns in how Earth moves around the sun that change the climate over the ages.
Environment Protection Charge	A fee imposed on activities or products that harm the environment, to discourage their use and generate funds for environmental protection measures.	A charge for doing things or making things that hurt the environment, meant to discourage damage and help pay for green projects.
Net Zero Carbon Emissions	A balance between the amount of greenhouse gas produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere.	When a country, company, or person isn't adding more greenhouse gases to the air than they're taking out.
Coal Bed Methane	Methane gas found in coal seams, which can be extracted and used as an energy source.	A type of natural gas trapped in coal deposits that can be used for heating or electricity.
Hydro-solidarity	The cooperative management of water resources among various stakeholders to achieve sustainable water governance.	Working together to manage water in a way that's fair and keeps it around for the future.



## Science and Technology

Concepts	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
Fourth Industrial Revolution	The current and developing environment in which disruptive technologies and trends such as the Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, virtual reality (VR), and artificial intelligence (AI) are changing the way we live and work.	A wave of new technologies that are merging the physical, digital, and biological worlds, significantly changing society and industries.
Gene Therapy	A medical field which modifies or manipulates the expression of a gene or alters the biological properties of living cells for therapeutic use.	A way to treat diseases by changing the genes inside a person's cells.
Circular DNA	DNA that forms a closed loop and has no free ends, commonly found in bacteria and some eukaryotes.	DNA that's shaped like a ring, which some tiny organisms have instead of the long strings humans have.
Juice Jacking	A type of cyber attack involving a charging port that doubles as a data connection, typically over USB, which can be used to install malicious software or steal data from a device.	When charging stations are used to hack into your phone or tablet to steal information or put viruses on it.
Viroids	Infectious pathogens affecting plants, much smaller than viruses and composed of a short strand of circular RNA without a protein coat.	Tiny infectious agents that can make plants sick, even smaller than viruses, and made only of RNA without any protective coat.
Regulatory Sandbox	A framework set up by regulators that allows small scale, live testing of innovations by private firms in a controlled environment under the regulator's supervision.	A safe space created by authorities where companies can test new ideas under real conditions without having to worry about all the normal rules.
Deep Tech AI	Advanced artificial intelligence technologies that have the potential to create new markets or disrupt existing ones, driven by significant scientific or engineering advancements.	Really smart AI that's based on cutting-edge science and can change the way whole industries work.





Frontier TechnologyLabs	Research labs that focus on the exploration and development of emerging technologies that have the potential to significantly benefit society.	Labs that work on brand new tech that could make big positive changes in how we live.
Quantum Key Distribution	A secure communication method that uses quantum mechanics to encrypt and transmit data, ensuring that any interception of the data can be detected.	A super-secure way to send messages that uses the rules of quantum physics so that any eavesdropping can be spotted.
Bio similars	Biologically derived therapeutic products that are similar to an already FDA-approved biological product.	Medicines made from living organisms that are almost the same as other medicines that have already been okayed for use.
Transmutation	In nuclear science, the process of changing one chemical element into another through nuclear reactions.	Turning one type of atom into another kind using nuclear reactions.
Coking Coal	A type of coal that, when heated in the absence of air, melts, burns off impurities, and leaves a solid carbon residue used in the production of steel.	Special coal that's used to make steel because it can get super hot without burning away.
Star Dunes	Large, pyramid-shaped sand dunes that form in areas with strong winds blowing from multiple directions.	Giant piles of sand shaped like pyramids that are made by winds blowing from different directions.
Cavum Cloud	A large hole or depression that forms in cirrocumulus or altocumulus clouds, often appearing as a perfect circular gap.	A big round hole that can appear in some types of high clouds, looking like the sky has a hole in it.
Magellanic Clouds	Two irregular dwarf galaxies that are satellite galaxies of the Milky Way, visible from the southern hemisphere.	Two small, odd-shaped galaxies that go around our own Milky Way galaxy and can be seen from the southern part of Earth.
Dry Ice	Solid form of carbon dioxide, which is used primarily as a cooling agent due to its cold temperature and sublimation properties.	Frozen carbon dioxide that's super cold and turns into gas instead of liquid, used to keep things really cold.
Biocuration	The process of collecting, organizing, and maintaining a database of biological information.	Gathering all sorts of biological data and keeping it in order so people can find what they need.
Biofoundry	Facilities dedicated to the production and testing of biological products using automation and advanced biotechnology techniques.	Labs that use robots and high-tech methods to make and test products that come from living things.
Deep Tech AI	Advanced artificial intelligence systems based on significant scientific breakthroughs.	Super smart AI that's on the cutting edge of new discoveries and can do amazing things.
Quantum Key Distribution	A secure communication method that uses quantum mechanics to encrypt and share keys.	A way to send secret codes that only the right person can read, using the science behind atoms and particles.
General Purpose AI Models	Artificial intelligence systems that can perform a variety of tasks that normally require human intelligence.	AI that can do lots of different jobs, like a Swiss Army knife for brain work.
Spectrum Regulatory Sandbox	A testing ground for wireless communication technologies without the usual regulatory constraints.	A playground for testing new wireless tech without all the red tape.
Devin:AI Software Engineer	Not an established concept; possibly a reference to AI designed to perform software engineering tasks.	An AI named Devin that works like a computer programmer.
Astronomical Grand Cycles	Cycles in celestial dynamics, such as the orbits of planets, that influence astronomical events over long periods.	Big repeating patterns in space that take a really long time and affect things like stars and planets.
Euthanasia	The act or practice of intentionally ending a life to alleviate pain or suffering.	Helping someone end their life to stop their suffering, usually because of a serious illness.
Universal Acceptance	A principle suggesting that all domain names and email addresses should be treated equally by web technologies.	The idea that all internet addresses should work the same no matter what language or characters they use.



Biofuels	Fuels produced from living organisms or organic matter and considered to be more sustainable than fossil fuels.	Fuels made from plants or animal waste that are friendlier to the environment than oil.
Gamete Donation	The process by which an individual provides eggs or sperm for others to use for reproduction.	When someone gives their eggs or sperm to help others have a baby.
Gestational Surrogacy	An arrangement where a woman agrees to carry and deliver a child for another person or couple.	When a woman carries a baby for someone else who can't have children themselves.
Neutrinos	Subatomic particles that are very light and pass through ordinary matter with little to no interaction.	Really tiny particles that can go through just about anything without being noticed.
Ghost Particles	Another name for neutrinos, due to their elusive and hard-to-detect nature.	Just another name for neutrinos because they are so sneaky and hard to catch.
Data Exclusivity	A period during which drug companies can prevent competitors from using the clinical trial data they have generated to gain market approval for generic medicines.	A time when the company that tested a new medicine can stop others from using its test results to make similar, cheaper medicine.
Polymetallic Nodules	Rock concretions on the seabed formed of layers of iron and manganese hydroxides around a core.	Lumpy rocks found on the ocean floor that contain lots of different metals.
Artificial General Intelligence	A type of AI that has the ability to understand or learn any intellectual task that a human being can.	AI that can do anything a person can do, in terms of thinking or learning.
White Rabbit Technology	Not a widely recognized term; could refer to a specific proprietary technology or concept.	Since it's not well-known, it's probably a special kind of tech with a name like 'White Rabbit.'
Internet Pollution	The negative environmental impact of the internet's infrastructure, such as energy consumption and electronic waste.	The bad stuff for the planet that comes from using and running the internet, like using lots of power or throwing out old gadgets.
Deep Fake Elections	The potential use of deepfake technology to produce false or misleading information during elections.	Using super-realistic fake videos or audio to trick people during an election.
Critical Minerals	Minerals that are essential for the economy and whose supply may be disrupted.	Important minerals that we really need and might run out of because they're hard to get.
Irrigation as a Service	A model providing irrigation technology solutions to farmers as a service rather than selling the technology as a product.	Offering watering technology to farmers like a subscription service instead of making them buy all the equipment.
Afar Triangle	A geologic depression caused by the Afar Triple Junction, which is part of the Great Rift Valley in East Africa.	A spot in Africa where the earth's crust is pulling apart, making a big low area.
Geoparks	Single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education, and sustainable development.	Special places on Earth that are geologically important and are looked after in a way that's good for the environment and people.
Twin Star System	A solar system that contains two stars instead of one, often orbiting around a common center of mass.	A solar system with two suns that dance around each other.
Marine Heatwaves	Periods of abnormally high ocean temperatures that can cause significant impacts on marine ecosystems.	When parts of the ocean get really hot for a while and it can mess up sea life.



## Polity

Concepts	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
Anticipatory Bail	A provision in the criminal law allowing individuals to seek bail in anticipation of an arrest on accusation of having	Getting bail before you're actually arrested to avoid going to jail while waiting for your trial.





	committed a non-bailable offence.	
Cross voting	In the context of an election, when a member of a political party votes against the prescribed party line.	When a politician doesn't follow the rest of their party and votes their own way.
Aspirational Districts	Identified districts in India that are affected by poor socio-economic indicators. These districts are a part of the government's effort to raise living standards and ensure inclusive growth for all.	Areas in India that need extra help because they're not doing so well with things like health, education, and income.
Default Bail	A bail granted to an accused person when the investigating agency fails to file a charge sheet within a specified period.	When someone is let go temporarily because the police took too long to complete paperwork.
Internally Displaced Persons	People who have been forced to flee their home but remain within their country's borders, often due to conflict, violence, or natural disasters.	Folks who have to leave their homes because of war or disasters but haven't crossed into another country.
Peace Clause	A temporary provision that allows countries to exceed agreed subsidy limits without facing legal challenges under certain conditions.	A rule that lets countries give more help to their farmers than usually allowed without getting into trouble for a little while.
Common Service Centres	Physical facilities that provide government-related services to rural and remote locations.	Places where people can get various government services, especially in areas where it's harder to access them.
Criminalisation of Politics	The phenomenon of individuals with a criminal background entering the political arena or existing politicians engaging in criminal activities.	When people with a criminal past get into politics or when politicians start breaking the law.
Special Leave Petition	A special right granted that enables the Supreme Court of India to hear appeals against judgments of lower courts.	A way to ask the Supreme Court in India to review a case after the lower courts have made a decision.
Preventive Detention	The act of holding someone in custody in order to prevent them from committing future crimes.	Locking someone up to stop them from possibly doing something illegal in the future.
Ex-parte Injunctions	Orders issued by a court without hearing the side of the person against whom the order is issued.	A court order that's made without listening to the person it's going to affect.
Bye-laws	Local laws or regulations made by a corporation or body of persons for its own government.	Rules made by a local group or organization to govern itself.



## International Relations

Concepts	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
NATO Plus	A term referring to non-NATO countries that have strategic relations with NATO including participation in NATO-led operations and other forms of cooperation.	Countries that aren't in NATO but work closely with it, joining in on military operations and other activities.
Collective Defense	A security arrangement, under which a group of countries agree to defend each other against external threats.	A team-up of nations promising to protect each other if any of them are attacked.
Global Supply Chains	Networks that span across international borders to supply goods and services to global markets.	The complicated paths products take from where they're made to where they're sold, all over the world.

