



CONCEPTS IN NEWS

September 2024

Environment

Concepts	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
Biodiversity Offsetting	A conservation method in which companies compensate for environmental damage by protecting or restoring other areas.	Companies pay to protect or restore nature elsewhere when they harm the environment.
Circular Bioeconomy	An economy that focuses on using renewable biological resources and recycling to achieve sustainability.	A system where biological resources are reused and recycled to create a sustainable economy.
Geoengineering for Climate Mitigation	Large-scale intervention in the Earth's natural systems to counteract climate change.	Using technology to try to cool the planet or reduce the impact of climate change.
Green Steel in Decarbonization	The production of steel using renewable energy and low-carbon technologies to reduce emissions.	Making steel in a way that doesn't pollute as much by using green energy.
Climate-resilient Urban Infrastructure	Designing cities and infrastructure that can withstand the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events.	Building cities that can handle floods, storms, and other effects of climate change.



| Clear your doubts now.



Carbon Lock-In	When investments in carbon-intensive infrastructure make it difficult to reduce emissions in the future.	Getting stuck with old systems that pollute a lot, making it hard to switch to cleaner options.
Climate Vulnerability Index	A tool that measures the susceptibility of a region or community to the impacts of climate change.	A score that shows how at-risk a place is to climate change, like floods or droughts.
Regenerative Agriculture in Policy	Agricultural practices that restore soil health, water retention, and biodiversity, integrated into government policies.	Farming in a way that heals the land and is encouraged by government policies.
Water-energy-food Nexus	The interconnectedness of water, energy, and food resources, emphasizing the need for integrated management.	Understanding how water, energy, and food depend on each other and need to be managed together.
Climate Debt	The responsibility of industrialized countries to provide support to developing nations affected by climate change.	Rich countries paying for the damage caused by climate change in poorer countries.
Climate-induced Migration	The movement of people forced to leave their homes due to climate change impacts like rising sea levels and extreme weather.	People being forced to move because their homes are affected by climate change.
Bio-circular-Green Economy	An economic system that integrates biological, circular, and green practices to promote sustainability.	A system where natural resources are recycled and used in eco-friendly ways to create jobs and growth.
Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR)	Government-held reserves of oil to be used during emergencies to ensure energy security.	Oil stored by governments in case of emergencies when fuel is in short supply.
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Science and Technology

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Quantum Entanglement	A quantum phenomenon where two particles remain connected so that the state of one instantly influences the other, regardless of distance.	A strange quantum effect where two particles are connected, even if they are far apart.
Superconducting Qubits	Quantum bits made from materials that conduct electricity with zero resistance, used in quantum computers.	Qubits, or quantum bits, that help make super-fast computers by allowing electricity to flow without resistance.
Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)	A secure communication method that uses quantum mechanics to encrypt and transmit information in a way that cannot be hacked.	Using quantum science to send information that can't be intercepted or hacked.
AI-Driven Predictive Modeling	The use of artificial intelligence to analyze data and make predictions about future outcomes.	Using AI to look at data and predict what might happen next, like forecasting weather or stock trends.
Cryptographic Hash Functions	Algorithms that take input data and produce a fixed-size string of characters, used in securing data on the blockchain.	A method used to protect data by turning it into a secure, scrambled string of numbers and letters.
Zero-Knowledge Proofs	A method where one party proves to another that they know a value, without conveying any information about the value itself.	A way to prove something is true without revealing the actual details, often used in privacy-focused tech.
Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)	A form of radar used to create detailed images of landscapes by using the movement of radar antennas to simulate a large aperture.	A technology that captures highly detailed images of the Earth from space using radar.





Environmental DNA (eDNA) Sampling	The collection and analysis of genetic material from environmental samples (water, soil) to detect the presence of organisms.	Collecting DNA from the environment, like water, to figure out what species live in an area.
Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs)	Weapons that emit energy in an aimed direction without the use of projectiles, including lasers and microwaves.	Weapons that shoot energy beams, like lasers, instead of bullets or missiles.
Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs)	Robotic vehicles that operate underwater without human intervention, often used for oceanographic research.	Robots that explore the ocean on their own without needing human control.
Bioluminescence	The production and emission of light by living organisms, such as certain fish, fungi, and fireflies.	The ability of living organisms like fireflies and deep-sea creatures to glow in the dark.
Neuroplasticity	The brain's ability to reorganize itself by forming new neural connections throughout life.	The brain's ability to adapt and change by forming new connections between brain cells.
Bio-remediation of Plastics	The use of living organisms, such as bacteria or fungi, to break down and remove plastic waste from the environment.	Using living things, like bacteria, to break down and clean up plastic pollution.
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Artificial Intelligence Regulation	Rules and laws designed to govern the development and use of artificial intelligence technologies.	Laws to control how artificial intelligence is built and used, making sure it's safe and fair.
Cryptographic Agility	The ability of a cryptographic system to switch quickly to newer algorithms when older ones become insecure.	The ability to change encryption methods easily when one becomes outdated.
Neurotechnology in Warfare	The use of brain-computer interfaces or other neural technologies in military applications to enhance soldiers' performance.	Using technology that interacts with the brain to boost the abilities of soldiers.
Artificial Intelligence-driven Warfare	The use of AI technologies to conduct military operations, including autonomous drones, decision-making, and surveillance.	Using AI in military operations, from drones to battlefield decisions.
Hardened Facilities in Cybersecurity	Facilities designed to resist attacks, including cyber attacks, by being physically and digitally secure.	Secure buildings and systems that can withstand cyber and physical attacks.
Regulatory Sandboxes	A framework set up by regulators that allows companies to test new products and services in a controlled environment under regulatory supervision.	A safe space for companies to test new technologies without breaking any laws.





Quantum Supremacy	The point at which a quantum computer can solve problems faster than any classical computer.	When quantum computers solve problems that regular computers can't handle.
Blockchain-based Voting	A digital voting system that uses blockchain to ensure transparency, security, and tamper-resistance.	Using blockchain to create secure and transparent voting that can't be tampered with.
Quantum Financial Cryptography	The use of quantum computing for creating secure cryptographic financial systems.	Using powerful quantum computers to make financial transactions super secure.
Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)	The framework and digital services required for a society's functioning, like ID systems, payments, and internet connectivity.	The digital tools and services that a country needs to run smoothly, like ID cards and online payments.
Post-quantum Cryptography	Encryption methods designed to resist attacks from quantum computers.	New ways to protect data from being hacked by super-powerful quantum computers.
AI-driven Cyber Warfare	The use of artificial intelligence in cyber-attacks and defenses.	Using AI to improve both offensive and defensive strategies in online warfare.
Neuroeconomics	The study of how brain activity influences economic decisions and behavior.	Studying how our brain's decisions impact things like spending and saving money.
Neurotechnology in Warfare	The use of brain-computer interfaces or other neural technologies in military applications to enhance soldiers' performance.	Using technology that interacts with the brain to improve soldiers' abilities in combat.
Synthetic Fuels (E-fuels)	Fuels made from carbon dioxide and hydrogen through chemical processes, used as alternatives to fossil fuels.	Fuels that are created using carbon dioxide and water, used to replace gasoline or diesel.
Strategic Resource Nationalism	A country's use of its natural resources, such as oil or minerals, to achieve political or economic goals.	Countries using their valuable natural resources to gain power or wealth.
Quantum Cryptography	The use of quantum mechanics to create secure communication systems.	Using quantum physics to make unbreakable ways of sending secure messages.
Cyber-resilience in National Security	The ability of a country's digital infrastructure to withstand and recover from cyber-attacks.	A country's power to defend against online attacks and keep its computer systems working.
Digital Platform Accountability	The responsibility of digital platforms, such as social media or e-commerce sites, to manage their content and protect users' rights.	Ensuring online platforms are responsible for keeping users safe and following laws.





Supply Chain Digital Twins	The creation of virtual models of supply chains using real-time data to predict and optimize performance.	Using digital copies of supply chains to better understand and manage them in real-time.
Digital Sovereignty in Trade Agreements	Ensuring that a country maintains control over its digital infrastructure and data in international trade deals.	Countries keeping control of their own digital systems and data in trade deals.
Blockchain Interoperability	The ability of different blockchain systems to communicate and work together seamlessly.	Letting different blockchains talk to each other easily and share information.
Digital Twin Ecosystems	Creating a virtual model of an entire ecosystem (like a city or industry) for monitoring and analysis.	Using digital copies of cities, industries, or systems to study them in detail.
Strategic Decoupling	The process of disconnecting economic or technological systems between rival nations to reduce dependency.	Splitting up the economic or tech ties between competing countries to become more independent.
Artificial Intelligence-driven Judicial Systems	Using AI to assist or make legal decisions, from case management to rulings.	Using AI to help make legal decisions faster and more accurate.
Cyber-Resilience in National Security	A country's ability to withstand and recover quickly from cyber-attacks.	A nation's strength in defending against and bouncing back from cyber-attacks.



Economy

Concepts	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
Debt-for-Nature Bonds	A financial arrangement where debt is forgiven in exchange for investment in environmental protection.	A deal where countries can reduce their debt by protecting the environment.
Sovereign Wealth Fund Diversification	Expanding the investments of a country's wealth fund into multiple sectors and regions.	Spreading a country's savings into different investments to reduce risks.
Strategic Hedging	Using a combination of strategies to reduce risks in uncertain political and economic environments.	Balancing between different strategies to protect against risks in politics and economics.
Debt Distress Resolution Mechanism	A framework used by international lenders to help countries facing debt crises.	A system to help countries that can't pay back their loans.





Sovereign Debt Restructuring	The process of renegotiating the terms of a country's debt when it faces financial difficulties.	When a country changes the way it will pay back its debt to avoid a crisis.
Debt-for-Equity Swaps	A financial restructuring method where debt is converted into company equity (ownership).	Turning a company's or country's debt into shares of ownership.
Carbon Market Volatility	The fluctuation in the value of carbon credits due to changes in demand, policy, or environmental factors.	When the price of permits to pollute goes up and down unpredictably.
Sustainable Development Bonds	Bonds issued to finance sustainable projects, like renewable energy or conservation.	Loans raised by countries to fund green projects like clean energy or forest protection.
Carbon Border Tax Adjustments	A tax on imports from countries with looser carbon regulations, aimed at preventing "carbon leakage."	A tax on goods from countries that don't have strict pollution controls.
Carbon Intensity Trading	Trading of credits based on the carbon emissions per unit of production.	Buying and selling rights to emit carbon based on how much a company pollutes.
Green Premium in Renewable Energy	The additional cost associated with using clean, renewable energy compared to traditional energy sources.	Extra costs for using clean energy instead of fossil fuels.
Bioeconomic Innovation	The development of sustainable economic practices based on biological resources and ecosystems.	Innovations that use living systems and natural processes to create a greener economy.
Corporate Environmental Disclosure	A company's public reporting of its environmental impact, risks, and sustainability efforts.	When companies tell the public about how their activities affect the environment.
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International Relations

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Techno-nationalism	The belief that technological advancements should be controlled by the state to protect national interests.	A country using technology to make itself stronger and protect its interests.
Hydropower Geopolitics	The strategic use of water resources for generating power, which impacts diplomatic relations between countries sharing water bodies.	How the use of water for energy affects relationships between countries.
Offshore Wind Energy Diplomacy	The use of diplomatic relations to secure deals and cooperation on offshore wind energy projects.	Countries working together to develop wind energy from the ocean.





Strategic Depth in Military Doctrine	A country's ability to conduct military operations far from its borders to protect its interests.	A country's plan to protect itself by fighting far away from home.
Climate-induced Migration	The displacement of people due to the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels and extreme weather.	People being forced to move because of climate change effects like floods or droughts.
Strategic Energy Reserve Management	Managing national reserves of energy resources like oil and gas to ensure energy security.	Controlling a country's emergency stock of energy resources for times of need.
Maritime Chokepoints	Narrow passageways in oceans or seas that are critical for international shipping and can be easily blocked.	Narrow sea routes that ships pass through, where a blockage could cause big problems for global trade.
Strategic Resource Nationalism	The use of a country's natural resources, such as oil or minerals, as a tool for economic or political power.	A country controlling its resources to gain economic or political advantage.
Strategic Technology Alliances	Partnerships between nations or companies to develop and share critical technologies.	Countries or companies working together to develop and share important technologies.
Plurilateral Agreements	Trade or cooperation agreements between multiple countries, but not necessarily global.	Deals made between a few countries on specific topics, rather than global treaties.
Digital Decoupling	The process of separating and creating independent digital ecosystems in response to geopolitical tensions.	Breaking apart connected digital systems to create separate online worlds between countries.
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Polity

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Judicial Activism	The practice of judges making decisions based on personal or political considerations rather than existing law.	When judges make rulings based on their own beliefs instead of just following the law.
Fiscal Federalism	The financial relations between units of governments in a federal system, particularly the allocation of taxation and spending powers.	How financial responsibilities are shared between the central and state governments.





Delimitation Commission	A commission tasked with redrawing the boundaries of electoral constituencies based on population changes.	A group responsible for adjusting electoral boundaries according to the population.
Right to be Forgotten	A legal principle that allows individuals to request the removal of their personal information from the internet.	The right to have your personal data removed from the internet if it's no longer relevant.
Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)	A process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code for resolving the insolvency of companies.	A legal process used to help companies that are struggling financially.
Doctrine of Colourable Legislation	A legal doctrine that prevents legislatures from making laws that indirectly violate the constitution.	A rule that stops lawmakers from passing laws that break the constitution indirectly.
Natural Justice Principles	Basic principles of fairness in legal processes, including the right to a fair hearing and the rule against bias.	Rules that ensure everyone gets a fair chance in court, and decisions are made without bias.
Sovereign Immunity in Arbitration	The principle that a state or sovereign entity cannot be sued in foreign courts or arbitration tribunals without its consent.	A rule that protects countries from being taken to court by other countries unless they agree to it.
Data Localization Sovereignty	Policies requiring data on a country's citizens to be stored and processed within its borders, ensuring control over the data.	A policy that ensures all personal data stays within a country and is controlled by that country.
Blockchain-based Smart Contracts	Self-executing contracts with terms written directly into code, running on blockchain technology.	Digital contracts that automatically carry out their terms without the need for lawyers or paperwork.
Judicial Overreach	When the judiciary crosses into the domain of the executive or legislative branches, often seen as overstepping its authority.	When courts make decisions that should be left to the government or parliament.
Data Localization Sovereignty	Requiring personal or sensitive data to be stored and processed within the country's borders for security or privacy reasons.	Laws that ensure that personal data stays within the country and isn't sent abroad.
Strategic Trade Controls	Policies to regulate the export and transfer of technologies, goods, and services critical to national security.	Rules that control the export of important technologies or goods that could affect national security.
Right to be Forgotten	A legal right allowing individuals to have personal information removed from the internet.	The ability to ask for your personal information to be deleted from websites or databases.





Subnational Diplomacy	The engagement of regional or local governments in international affairs, outside of central government diplomacy.	When cities or states manage their own international relations.
Extraterritorial Jurisdiction	The right of a country to apply its laws to its citizens or activities beyond its borders.	When a country applies its laws to its people or businesses even if they're abroad.
Cross-border Insolvency Laws	Laws designed to deal with the bankruptcy of companies or individuals with assets or debts in multiple countries.	Rules that handle bankruptcies that involve people or businesses in different countries.
Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs)	Organizations run on blockchain technology where decision-making is automated and decentralized.	A digital organization where decisions are made by code, not people.
Cross-border Data Transfer Regulation	Laws governing the transfer of personal data across national borders, ensuring security and privacy.	Rules about how personal data can be moved between countries to keep it safe.
Algorithmic Governance in AI	The use of algorithms to make decisions in governance, often in areas like justice, healthcare, and welfare.	Using computer programs to make decisions in government processes.
AI-driven Cyber Warfare	The use of artificial intelligence to conduct or enhance cyber-attacks on enemy targets.	Using AI to plan and execute cyber-attacks more effectively.
Public Health Sovereignty	The ability of a state to independently manage its public health policies without external influence.	A country's power to control its own health system without interference.
Transnational Climate Litigation	Legal cases brought against countries or companies by foreign governments or organizations for contributing to climate change.	Taking other countries or companies to court for causing environmental harm across borders.

