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IN FOCUS

Instability in Burkina Faso: Five things to know

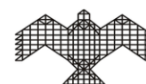
The coup in Burkina Faso represents a larger problem in West Africa, a region affected by shaky governance and Islamist violence.

Apoorva Sudhakar



Burkinabes celebrate the coup in the streets of Ouagadougou. (Image Source: The New York Times)

On 24 December, an announcement signed by Lieutenant Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba informed Burkinabes that the army had ousted and detained President Roch Marc Kabore. The announcement cited deterioration of security and declared dissolution of the government and national assembly, suspension of the constitution, and closure of borders.



The coup garnered criticism at the regional and international levels, despite enjoying domestic support to an extent. The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres criticised "any attempt to take over a government by the force of arms." Guterres asked the coup leaders to "lay down their arms & ensure the safety of the President and the protection of the country's institutions." Al Jazeera quoted statements from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU), both condemning the coup. ECOWAS maintained that Kabore's resignation was a result of "threat, intimidation and pressure" and on 28 January, the regional organisation suspended Burkina Faso; this makes it the third member country to face suspension due to military coups, the previous two being Mali and Guinea. Ghana's President and current ECOWAS Chairman Nana Akufo-Addo said: "The resurgence of coup defeats in our region is in direct violation of our democratic tents. It represents a threat to peace, security and stability in West Africa."

However, the domestic scenario presented a stark contrast with over a thousand people celebrating the coup in the capital, Ouagadougou, and conveyed that this is what the Burkinabe population wanted. The celebrations were similar to those in Guinea and Mali after both countries witnessed coups in 2021.

What does the above mean? Why are coups being celebrated in Africa? Is there a larger political trend in Africa currently?

Five things to know

First, the soldiers' motive. The announcement of the military takeover was made under an umbrella entity, the Patriotic Movement for Safeguard and Restoration (MPSR). The soldiers had been increasingly wary of the security situation in Burkina Faso and had often maintained that they were not provided with the latest technology and rations to fight the armed insurgency linked to the Islamic State in the country, especially in the north. A recent and infamous attack took place in November 2021 wherein 49 military officials at a gendarmerie post were killed. The armed forces unit said they had no access to the resupply of arms and food for weeks, thereby indicating a friction or miscommunication between the military and government.

Second, the build-up towards the coup. Several incidents like the one above fuelled the concerns of ordinary Burkinabes who saw attacks targeting

security forces and civilians as a failure of the government. In November 2021, Ouagadougou witnessed protests demanding the resignation of Kabore. To quell the discontent among the population, in December, Kabore replaced the Prime Minister. On 12 January, the government announced that a coup attempt had been put down; soldiers and civilians were arrested, thereby sparking a new round of anti-government protests. By 22 January, two days prior to the coup, hundreds of Burkinabes had gathered in Ouagadougou once more demanding Kabore's resignation; on the other hand, soldiers were calling for more support to fight the Islamist groups.

Third, the Islamist violence. With the Islamic State expanding its footprints in Africa and setting the stage for the same in the continent's west since 2015, violence has plagued Burkina Faso. A news report in Al Jazeera cites that the number of violent instances in the country has doubled over a year with close 1,150 reported attacks in 2021, in contrast to nearly 500 attacks in 2020. Similarly, a BBC news report estimates that the insurgency has caused over 2,000 casualties; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) says that violence had resulted in the internal displacement of 237,000 people, in the first six months of 2021.

Fourth, the changing Burkinabe demands. In 2014, widespread protests brought down long-standing former President Blaise Compaore who had come to power in 1987 through a military coup. Burkinabes opposed Compaore's proposal to extend his presidential term in 2015, eventually leading to his exile and the election of Kabore as the President. The people's demands were supported by a group of army men who refused to back Compaore. Kabore's election marked the beginning of a democratic phase for the country; however, the security threats mentioned above made him increasingly unpopular among the masses, especially after he was re-elected in 2020. Today, the Burkinabe demands and the support to the army are a contrast to the demands laid forward in 2015.

Fifth, the current popularity of coups in Africa. The latest coup is the fourth successful coup in West Africa in less than a year; in 2021, the region witnessed three military takeovers in Chad in April, Mali in May, Guinea in September. Certain sections of the populations in Mali and Guinea were jubilant and looked up to the military to address their woes. However, earlier in January 2022, ECOWAS imposed sanctions on Mali, placing the military in a fix. Guinea, under the military leader Colonel Mamady Doumbouya, maintained it would not follow the ECOWAS decision and extended support to Mali.

Like every coup leader promises a democratic transition, the MPSR in Burkina Faso has also claimed to restore the same shortly. Meanwhile, in the east, Sudan too witnessed a successful coup in October 2021. Therefore, speculations of whether Africa is back to its era of coups run high.

What does this mean?

First, the regional impact. The reasons listed by the MPSR, including the pressure to combat violence, are similar to those cited by Mali's coup leader Colonel Assimi Goita; this implies that the problem transcends geographical borders. In the near future, West Africa will remain a conflict hotspot and violence is likely to increase. This would lead to

more casualties and increased internal displacement.

Second, the effectiveness of ECOWAS. The coup in Burkina Faso, despite the regional organisation's sanctions on Mali, indicates that the ECOWAS decision has been ineffective in drawing a line. Similarly, Guinea's decision to defy ECOWAS also shows a growing rift within the region.

Third, democracy in Africa. There is a visible backsliding of democracy in Africa, with more coups. Despite the hope of democracy which arose in the late 90s and early 2000s, a strong establishment of the same appears to be distant.

COMMENTARY

Africa: The anti-France sentiments in Mali and beyond

If France is undergoing a decline in the Sahel, it can create a vacuum in the region; this is likely to be filled by Russia and China. Such shifts in power dynamics can create further instability in Africa.

Mohamad Aseel Ummer



A protester in Mali holds a placard calling on France to leave Mali. (Image Source: AP Photo/Harandane Dicko/The Africa Report)

On 4 February, The European Union imposed selective sanctions on Mali's Prime Minister and close members of Col Assimi Goita's inner circle as the military leadership retracted from the chalked-out plans to conduct elections in February. The sanctions came after the French Ambassador to Mali was given 72 hours to leave the country in response to the provocative remarks made by French foreign minister earlier. He called out the regime be "illegitimate" and accused them of being "out of control". This marks the recent low between France and its former African colony.

France is the most dominant European player in Africa. The colonial legacy has enabled Paris to maintain influence in the region's economic, political, strategic and military affairs. Despite decades of decolonization, the French interventions (overt & explicit) in the continent has become systematic and institutionalized. This resulted in increased public resentment and anger. Lately, the military junta in Mali has become the most prominent agent of anti-French sentiments and a staunch diplomatic adversary in the ongoing contentions between both countries.

Mali has undergone two military takeovers in recent years. The military takeover was condemned internationally. French foreign minister Le Drian criticized the takeover stating, "France condemns with the greatest firmness the violent act that occurred in Mali." After a nationwide reform conference in Mali that ended in December 2020, the regime has proposed to stay in power till 2026. This prompted the regional ECOWAS to place strict sanctions including the closing of land borders, trade embargos and other strict measures. This was followed with the recent EU's backlisting of important figures in the Malian military administration along with freezing assets and travel bans.

Anti-insurgency operations by France and Russian mercenaries in Africa

The French troops have been fighting insurgencies since 2013 under various operation banners (Serval, Barkhane & Takuba) in the Sahel region. Islamist militants have grown considerably in recent years by exploiting structural issues such as poverty and unemployment. Thousands have been displaced and hundreds killed in the tri-border region lying between Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso due to increased Islamist insurgency.

Macron administration recently announced pulling out men from their 5000 strong troops in the region by underplaying the militancy threat. He also commented: "France doesn't have the vocation or will to stay eternally in Sahel... we were there because we were asked to." As a response, the junta had allegedly entered into a deal with a Russian PMC, the Wagner group with close ties with Kremlin and Putin. This resulted in another episode of heated diplomatic dialogues. The French foreign ministry argued: "An intervention by this actor would therefore be incompatible with the efforts carried out by Mali's Sahelian and international partners". Malian authorities augmented their decision by stating that the public opinion is in favour of Russian cooperation, and as a sovereign nation, Mali cannot allow Paris to interfere in their domestic affairs. Wagner troops have already occupied bases in regions like Timbuktu that was abandoned by the French troops and some reports also suggest that they are engaged in active training and advisory programs for the Malian authorities.

Mali's relations with the EU have hit a major roadblock when the regime demanded the withdrawal of Danish troops who were in the country as part of the Takuba task force, as the Malian government wasn't informed regarding the deployment of troops from Denmark. The withdrawal was a major blow to French dominance in the ongoing operations and its influence in the country.

Four factors contributing to France's decline in Africa

First, the critics blame the CFA Franc as a primary reason for the economic dependency of Africa over the French treasury. The currency is often dubbed the colonial currency used in 14 francophone African countries and has been in the region since the 1940s. It is pegged with the Euro and is financially backed by the French economy. French authorities argue that the currency ensures a degree of financial stability and helps in regulating inflation. Whereas it is widely held among many that Africa can attain financial independence by ridding with the currency as the continent contribute a lot more than what they receive in aides from France.

Second, most Africans see the current French interventions as neo-colonial and accuse France of exerting dominance by violating their internal sovereignty. According to many African historians, France has tactfully consolidated their influence by supporting and strengthening the positions of elites in its former colonies. Some argue that the French replaced the parliamentary form of governance

with presidential systems as an exertion of influence is considerably easier in the latter.

Third, unlike his predecessors, Macron's accession brought high hopes for many Africans. He was openly critical of France's Africa policy, and has also expressed his willingness to do away with CFA franc. Yet, relations between Bamako and Paris have hit a serious low. Macron has failed to remove the French influence as he pledged during his campaigns. Finally, like most parts of the third world, Africa is intensely dependent on foreign aid. Africa alone is the prime exporter of various minerals to the rest of the world, but the continent has the highest rates of poverty, underdevelopment, crime and so on. Critiques of Franc Afrique often accuses the west of depriving the African population of the profits of their resources and

creating a state of financial dependence. Countries like Burkina Faso and the Central African Republic are prime victims of such western trends.

To conclude, relations between France and Mali has turned increasingly acrimonious and both countries are drifting away. There have been anti-French slogans, waving Russian flags and Macron's effigies being burnt. The present wave of anti-French sentiments has signs of spill-over with similar popular movements in neighbouring Burkina Faso and Niger.

If France is undergoing a decline in the Sahel, it can create a vacuum in the region; this is likely to be filled by Russia and China. Such shifts in power dynamics can create further instability in Africa.

Recent publications on Africa

Apoorva Sudhakar, "Mali: France's troop withdrawal amid friction with military government," *The World This Week*, 19 February 2022

Anu Maria Joseph, "The EU- Africa summit 2022: Issues and Challenges of a "special relationship," *The World This Week*, 19 February 2022

Poulomi Mondal, "Tunisia: Presidential decree to create a new judicial watchdog, and consolidate his power," *Conflict Weekly*, 12 February 2022

Harshita Rathore, "Libya: With two Prime Ministers, a new political crisis," *Conflict Weekly*, 16 February 2022

S Shaji, "Africa in 2021: Backsliding democracy and heightening humanitarian crises," *Global Politics*, 8 February 2022

Apoorva Sudhakar, "Mali: Tensions escalate as ECOWAS imposes sanctions," *The World This Week*, 15 January 2022

AFRICA IN BRIEF

February 2022

by Anu Maria Joseph, Apoorva Sudhakar, Harshita Rathore, Poulomi Mondal

ETHIOPIA

Parliament lifts state of emergency

On 15 February, the Ethiopian parliament voted for an early end to a six-month long state of emergency which was declared in November due to the rebellion by the Tigray Forces. The Parliament's decision came after the cabinet last month proposed cutting the emergency short owing to improving security conditions in Northern Part of Ethiopia. The voting saw 312 lawmakers voting with 63 opposing and 21 abstaining the vote. The rationale behind the action is the increasing retreat of the Tigray forces to their areas and the divide within the faction. The chief government whip in the parliament, reportedly told the lawmakers that the emergency was "causing more damage than its benefits" and is heavily restricting tourism and other economic activities. Desalegn Chaine, of the opposition's National Movement of Amhara party said that lifting the emergency "in order to please the diplomatic community without ensuring the safety of the fellow citizens" was premature on the part of the parliament. (["Ethiopia: Parliament vote lifts state of emergency in conflict ridden north,"](#) *Africanews* 15 February 2022 ; Dawit Endeshaw, ["Ethiopia's parliament lifts state of emergency early,"](#) *Reuters* 16 February 2022)

WFP warns of extreme hunger in Ethiopia

On 28 January, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) released its latest food security assessment, showing that almost 40 per cent of Tigrayans face 'extreme lack of food' due to the 15 months of conflict since November 2020. Aid agencies have been facing severe challenges in delivering supplies to the conflict hit regions; since mid-December, no food convoy has reached Tigray. The report says, more than 80 per cent of families face food insecurity and less than a third are getting the required daily calories. In Afar, 28 per cent of children under five are malnourished. Considering the dire situation, the WFP says the country needs aid throughout 2022, and is reaching out for USD 337 million to fund its aid supplies in Ethiopia for the next six months. (Imogen Foulkes, ["Dire hunger, no food aid - grim WFP report on](#)

[Ethiopia,"](#) *BBC*, 28 January 2022)

UN deputy chief says Ethiopian war talks 'less hostile'

On 9 February, UN Deputy Chief Amina Mohammed said that Ethiopia is in "a much better place" to resolve the conflict that erupted in Tigray in November 2020. At a press conference following the AU Summit, Mohammed said: "There is much more conversation and dialogue and talk around the national dialogue itself and the way to peace," adding, "There's certainly less hostility than there was a few months ago." The UN official visited the war-torn regions of Tigray, Amhara and Afar and met with leadership of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which has been at war with the federal forces for more than a year. (["Ethiopia in 'much better place' to resolve Tigray conflict: Mohammed,"](#) *UN News*, 9 February 2022)

Amnesty International outlines exploitation of women and girls by Tigray Rebels

On 16 February, Amnesty International said that the Tigrayan rebels deliberately gang-raped dozens of women and under girls and killed numerous civilians in the two Ethiopian towns of Amhara region, namely Chenna and Kobo last year. The revelations were recorded in interviews with 30 rape survivors by the human rights watchdog to highlight the atrocities in these two towns in August and September after the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) seized control. This investigation is a follow up of an Amnesty report in November which talked about the sexual assaults in the Amhara town of Nifas Mewcha by Tigrayan rebels. One of the victims said, "One of them raped me in the courtyard and the other raped my mother inside the house". The Deputy Director of Amnesty for East Africa, Sarah Jackson said: "Evidence is mounting of a pattern of Tigrayan forces committing war crimes and possible crimes against humanity in areas under their control in the Amhara region from July 2021 onwards. This includes repeated incidents of widespread rape, summary killings and looting, including from hospitals." (["Tigray rebels gang-raped women and girls in Ethiopia war: Amnesty,"](#) *Africanews*, 16 February 2022)

SUDAN

Pro-democratic protests continue in Khartoum and other cities

On 14 February, pro-democracy protests continued as thousands took to the streets in capital city Khartoum, and other places like Omdurman, Port Sudan and Wad Madani, and called for a civilian government. Two men were killed after security forces used ammunition and tear gas to disperse the protesters. The demonstrations have been taking place since the coup in October, despite warnings from authorities. More than 2,200 people are estimated to have been injured in the demonstrations and subsequent crackdowns so far. ([“Protesters in Khartoum defiant despite crackdown,” Africanews](#), 14 February 2022)

SOUTH SUDAN

UN Mission records decline in violence against civilians

On 17 February, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) released its annual brief which outlined that violence against civilians in the country had dropped by 42 per cent in 2021. The annual brief documented 3,414 civilian victims in 2021, against the 5,850 victims in 2020; 194 cases of conflict-related sexual violence were recorded in 2021 compared to the 211 cases in 2020. Highest number of civilian casualties were recorded in Warrap state which accounted for 24 per cent of the cases, followed by Western Equatoria, and Jonglei and Greater Pibor Administrative Area. The UNMISS linked several cases of violence to subnational conflicts. ([“South Sudan: Sharp decline in violence against civilians,” UN News](#), 17 February 2022)

Several dead as clashes erupt in Darfur

On 6 February, an unknown number of people were killed and several others injured after clashes took place between military forces and armed groups at the United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) facilities in Darfur. The military leader of Sudan stated that the UN's World Food Programme temporarily suspended its operations in the Darfur region following the looting and attack by the armed group. Since 2020, there has been an increase in violence and clashes in Darfur, despite the signing of a deal with former rebel groups and ceasing operations of UNAMID in 2021. ([“Deadly clashes erupt in Sudan's Darfur region,” Al Jazeera](#), 6 February 2022)

KENYA

Raging fire destroys 600 hectares of national park

On 7 February, BBC reported the raging fire in Kenya's Aberdares National Park had been contained. Around 600 hectares of the forest has been estimated to be engulfed by the fire since 5 February. The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) blamed the fire on arsonists. Days prior to the fire, the Kenya Meteorological Department reportedly

warned that forests and reserve parks were at risk due to the dry season and had called on the public “to take caution and avoid activities which are likely to lead to the occurrence of wildfires in forests, parks and game reserves.” ([“Kenya fire destroys 600 hectares of national park,” BBC](#), 7 February 2022; Gilbert Koech, [“Fire at Aberdares might be contained by midday-Rhino Ark,” The Star](#), 7 February 2022)

SOMALIA

Al-Shabab attacks in Mogadishu kills several people

On 16 February, Al-Shabab fighters attacked several police stations and security checkpoints in Somali capital Mogadishu amid the preparation for the presidential election which was previously stalled. The state television reported five casualties, including two children in two attacks: one at the Khahda district police station and another at Darusalam district. The group's military operations spokesperson, Abdiasis Abu Musab said that the fighters hit the governmental targets in four Capital districts and another area in outskirts. He also claimed about overrunning government bases and seizing military weapons and vehicles. However, it stays unverified as of now. The Internal Security Minister Abdullahi Nor stated on twitter that “The terrorists attacked the suburbs of Mogadishu and targeted police stations and checkpoints. Our security defeated the enemy”. (Feisal Omar, [“Several Killed in Mogadishu as al-Shabab attacks police stations,” Al Jazeera](#) 16 February 2022)

CAMEROON

Eight casualties recorded in stampede during AFCON

On 25 January, the government said at least eight people had been killed and 38 injured in a stampede at the Olembe Stadium during the Cameroon-Comoros match in the Africa Cup of Nations on 24 January. Cameroon is hosting the Cup for the first time, after it was denied the chance in 2019 citing concerns regarding the country's preparations and scrutiny over the readiness of the Olembe Stadium. Meanwhile, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) blamed the closure of an entrance for the stampede and said: “There is zero tolerance, absolute zero tolerance in the circumstances which could result in people being injured at a stadium or losing their lives.” ([“At least 8 dead following crush at Cameroon's win in Africa Cup of Nations,” ESPN](#), 25 January 2022; Aleks Klosok, Joel Kouam and Mitchell McCluskey, [“AFCON: Report into deadly stadium crush will focus on who closed gate that](#)

[led to loss of lives,](#)” *CNN*, 25 January 2022)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Militia members charged with death sentence for killing UN experts

On 31 January, military courts in Congo issued a death sentence for the militia members for their involvement in the murder of two UN experts. In 2017, Swedish-Chilean Zaida Catalan and American Michael Sharp were sent to DR Congo to investigate the mass graves in the Kasai region. They were abducted and killed by the militia. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres said he "would do everything possible to ensure that justice is done." The verdict stated that out of all the accused individuals 51 were militia members and were sentenced to death. But since DRC declared a moratorium on death sentences, the militia members are likely to be given life imprisonment. (“[DR Congo issues death sentences for murder of UN experts,](#)” *BBC*, 29 January 2022)

LIBYA

UN official urges Libya to conduct election by June

On 30 January, UN Secretary Stephanie Williams said: “Libya’s political class should stop conducting musical chairs to stay in power and focus instead on preparing for nationwide elections to be held by June.” She raised concern over the possible resurgence of an Islamic state. Libya was supposed to conduct elections on 24th December 2021, but due to the conflicting issues, it got delayed and was never conducted. It never happened due to the controversial ruling of Libyan courts over the three candidates Gen Khalifa Haftar, Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah. To this Williams stated: “it was not for the UN to decide which candidates stood. It is entirely a Libyan decision. You would have to ask Dbeibah what he thinks of a violation of a moral pledge.” (Patrick Wintour, “[Libya elite told to end ‘game of musical chairs and focus on elections,](#)” *The Guardian*, 30 January 2022)

Search for a new Prime Minister begins as political crisis deepens

On 13 February, Libyan joint forces rallied in the capital city Tripoli to support the claim of Abdul Hamid Dbeibah as the Prime Minister of Libya who is the head of UN-recognized Government of National Unity (GNU). On the other hand, the Tobruk-based House of Representatives (HOR) parliament in eastern Libya named Fathi Bashagha as the country’s new PM. Field Commander of the Joint Operations Force Colonel Ibrahim Mohamed said: “Of course, the reason for our presence here in the first place is to preserve the democratic path in Libya. We joined the revolution in 2011 because of the rule of the

military, we do not accept the rule of the military. We are here to defend international legitimacy, and our goal is to preserve legitimacy”. On the same day, the UN chief’s special advisor on Libya called on both the interim prime minister recognized by UN and the parliament designated successor to maintain stability and await the elections in the country to be held as soon as possible. (Mahmud Turkia, “[Pro-Dbeibah forces rally in Libya as political crisis deepens,](#)” *Al Jazeera*, 13 February 2022; Fethi Belaid, “[UN adviser tells Libya leaders to ‘preserve calm and stability’](#)” *Al Jazeera*, 13 February 2022)

TUNISIA

The Supreme Judicial Council will be reformed, says Justice Minister

On 6 February, President Kais Saied dissolved the Supreme Judicial Council. He said the body that deals with judicial independence “has become a thing of the past” and judiciary is just a “function of the state.” Reuters quoted head of the Tunisian Supreme Judicial Council Youssef Bouzakher: “The President’s decision is illegal and a direct assimilation of the presidency.” Following Saied’s decision, the envoys of G7 and EU said they were “deeply concerned” about his move against the council. UN Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet called it “a big step in the wrong direction.” On 9 February, following international criticisms, Justice Minister Leila Jaffel said the Supreme Judicial Council will be reformed instead of abolishing it and said: “Saied has assured the defence of the Supreme Judicial Council as a constitutional body that guarantees the independence of the justice system.” (“[Tunisian President dissolves Supreme Judicial Council,](#)” *DW*, 6 February 2022; “[UN, Western envoys urge Tunisia to restore judicial watchdog](#)” *Al Jazeera*, 8 February; “[Tunisia judicial body will be reformed, not dissolved: Gov’t,](#)” *Al Jazeera*, 10 February)

Presidential decree creates new Provisional Supreme Judiciary Council

On 13 February, President Kais Saied issued a decree establishing a new provisional Supreme Judiciary Council after replacing the existing High Judicial council of the country and acquiring additional powers to control the country’s top judicial organization. The publication of the decree in the official gazette says that the president controls the selection, promotion, appointment, and transfer of judges and in certain circumstances can act as a disciplinary body in charge of removals. In response to this protestors and civil societies took to the streets in capital city Tunis, waving flags and chants like “Shut down the coup...take your hands off the judiciary”. Meanwhile, G-7 countries voiced ‘deep concern’ regarding the dissolution of the judicial council and the International Court of

Justice (ICJ) tweeted that the decree “consolidates power in the hands of the President” effectively ending “any semblance of judicial independence in the country”. (Zoubair Souissi, “[Tunisia: President issues decree to create new judicial watchdog](#),” *Al Jazeera*, 13 February 2022)

GUINEA-BISSAU

Attack in Presidential area may turn into coup comeback

On 1 February, The Presidential area in capital city Bissau witnessed heavy gunfire, suspected to be a coup attempt and an attempt to kill President Umaro Sissoco Embaló with his entire cabinet. Eleven people, including police officers were killed during gun battle. Embaló said the development was triggered by decision he had taken to fight corruption and drug trafficking. The coup attackers have been suspected to have links to drug trafficking; Guinea-Bissau had become a transit between Latin America and Europe in the 2000s for selling cocaine. Meanwhile, in the last 18 months, West Africa has experienced the coups in three countries- Mali, Guinea, and Burkina Faso – thereby sparking a fear of the return of coups in the continent. (“[Guinea-Bissau: Many dead after coup attempt, president says](#),” *BBC*, 2 February 2022; “[Guinea-Bissau coup: President Umaro says deadly attempt thwarted](#),” *Al Jazeera*, 1 February 2022)

President blames convicted drug dealers for coup attempt

On 11 February, President Umaro Sissoco Embaló accused a former navy chief and his two accomplices having links with drug trade of being behind the failed coup earlier this month. Embaló claimed that Admiral Jose Americo Bubo Na Tchuto and his aides Tchamy Yala and Papis Djemey were behind the attack. Previously, the three men were arrested by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in 2013, for their involvement in cocaine trafficking. However, the President's description of the attempted coup is being speculated as he failed to provide a clear explanation to the attack. (“[Guinea-Bissau leader says convicted drug baron behind the failed coup](#),” *Al Jazeera*, 11 February 2022)

BURKINA FASO

French airstrikes kill 40 militants in Burkina Faso

On 13 February, French forces conducted airstrikes killing 40 militants in Burkina Faso. The attacks were in retaliation to a previous attack in Benin, where victims were primarily Frenchmen. The French Army's general command said that the French-led Barkhane force in the Sahel Region “engaged its air intelligence capacities to locate the armed group” responsible for the Benin attacks before the air attacks were carried out. The Beninese government reported that two roadside bombs killed five park rangers, one park official

and a French trainer in the W National Park in Benin, a wildlife reserve bordering Burkina Faso and Niger. (Benoit Tessier, “[French air raids kill 40 fighters in Burkina Faso](#),” *Al Jazeera*, 13 February 2022)

Burkina Faso's coup leader sworn in as the new president

On 16 February, Lieutenant-Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba has been inaugurated as the country's new president, just three weeks after the coup which took place under his leadership and overthrew democratically elected President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré. The swearing-in ceremony was televised where Damiba took an oath before the country's top constitutional body to “preserve, respect, uphold and defend the constitution”, in cohesion to the nation's laws and a “fundamental act” of key decisions to be approved by the military. In the ceremony which took place in the capital Ouagadougou, Damiba said “To gain the upper hand over the enemy, it will be necessary to rise up and convince ourselves that as a nation we have more than what it takes to win this war.” (Olympia de Maismont, “[Burkina Faso coup leader Damiba inaugurated as the president](#),” *Al Jazeera*, 16 February 2022; “[Burkina Faso coup leader Damiba sworn in as President](#),” *Reuters*, 16 February 2022)

SOUTH AFRICA

Ramaphosa addresses unemployment at the sixth nation address

On 10 February, President Cyril Ramaphosa pledged “to leave no one behind,” while addressing the country's high unemployment rate in his sixth State of Nation Address. South Africa has a high unemployment, apart from its industrial and infrastructural growth compared to other African countries. In the third quarter of 2021, the official unemployment rate in the country was 34.9 per cent. Ramaphosa promised “far-reaching structural reforms” that will modernise industries to unlock investment, grow the economy and create jobs and pledged to prioritise infrastructural projects in energy, roads and water management to create better livelihoods. (“[Ramaphosa addresses South Africa's unemployment in nation address](#),” *Al Jazeera*, 10 February 2022)

REGIONAL

Two Senegalese soldiers killed, nine missing in The Gambia

On 26 January, Senegalese army reported that nine of its soldiers had gone missing in The Gambia. The soldiers were surveilling timber trafficking, as part of ECOMIG, a peacekeeping mission of ECOWAS in The Gambia. The Senegalese army said the soldiers are likely to be held hostage by the rebel fighters of Movement of Democratic Forces of

Casamance (MFDC). Al Jazeera reported the army statement which said one rebel and two soldiers were killed and three rebels were captured. ECOMIG was deployed in The Gambia in January 2017 when former ruler Yahya Jammeh refused to hand over the power after losing the elections. The mission was extended under the request of President Adama Barrow to promote reforms in the security sector. ([“Two Senegalese soldiers killed, nine ‘missing’ in The Gambia,”](#) *Al Jazeera*, 26 January 2022)

Rwanda reopens border with Uganda after three years

On 28 January, Rwanda announced that it will reopen its border with Uganda on 31 January. Since 2019, the Gatuna-Katuna border was closed and movement of people and goods were restricted; Rwanda had accused Uganda of arresting its citizens and supporting rebels of Democratic Forces of the Liberation of Rwanda (FDRC). However, the Ugandan government denied the allegations and blamed Rwanda for interfering into its security agencies. The reopening announcement came after Lt Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba, son of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni met with Rwandan President Paul Kagame last week. On 25 January, Uganda sacked the head of military intelligence, who Rwanda had accused of working with rebels. The border reopening is seen as a new beginning to the relationship between the countries. ([“Rwanda to reopen border with Uganda after three years,”](#) *BBC*, 28 January 2022)

Three African countries among highest concerns on UN’s Hunger Hotspots

On 28 January, the WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released the “Hunger Hotspots FAO-WFP Early Warnings on Acute Food Insecurity” report with the forecast for February to May 2022. The report identified 20 hotspots; of this, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan have been categorised among countries of highest concern, along with Yemen. Other hunger hotspots in Africa include, the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Somalia, Kenya, Sudan, Madagascar, Mozambique, and countries in the Sahel region, namely Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso. The report links hunger in the above countries to conflict, COVID-19 pandemic, economic challenges and climatic conditions. ([“Ethiopia, Sudan, Nigeria Are ‘Hunger Hotspots’ – UN,”](#) *AllAfrica*, 27 January 2022)

13 million face extreme hunger in the Horn of Africa under worse drought, says WFP

On 8 February, the WFP said, almost 13 million people in the Horn of Africa are facing extreme hunger. The WFP said three consecutive failed rainy seasons have affected the “pastoral and farmer population across southern and southeastern Ethiopia, southeastern and northern Kenya and south-central Somalia.” The Regional Director of the WFP Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa stated: “Harvests are ruined, livestock are dying, and hunger is growing as recurrent droughts affect the Horn of Africa,” and added “The situation requires immediate humanitarian action and consistent support to build the resilience of communities for the future.” Further, inflation, decreasing demand for agricultural labour and price hike on food commodities have severely affected the public's capacity to buy food. ([“UN: 13 million face hunger in Horn of Africa as drought worsens,”](#) *Al Jazeera*, 8 February 2022)

ICJ orders Uganda to pay USD 325 million in reparations to DRC

On 9 February, the International Court of Justice ordered Uganda to pay USD 325 million in reparation to the Democratic Republic of Congo for the 1998-2003 war. The Court President, US judge Joan E Donoghue said: “The court notes that the reparation awarded to DRC for damage to persons and to property reflects the harm suffered by individuals and communities as a result of Uganda’s breach of its international obligation”. The reparation includes USD 225 million for “loss of life and other damages to persons” taking into account rape, conscription of child soldiers and displacement of about 500,000 people; USD 40 million for damage of property; and, USD 60 million for damage to natural resources, including plundering of gold, diamonds, timber and other goods by Ugandan forces or the rebels they supported. Uganda’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the amount was far less than the initial demand of USD 11 billion by DRC, but argued that the ruling was “unfair and wrong, just as the previous 2005 judgement on liability was unfair and wrong.” ([“UN court orders Uganda to pay USD 325 million in reparations to DR Congo,”](#) *Al Jazeera*, 9 February)

Thousands of schools closed in the Sahel leaving children with little to no hope, says report

On 14 February, a report by the Norwegian Refugee Council revealed insecurity in the central Sahel region has led to the closure of 5,500 schools

across Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. The report, compiled by interviewing 614 children, highlights that 53 per cent children do not feel safe at school and 64 per cent do not have high hopes for their future. The report further outlines that at the end of 2021, 2.5 million had been displaced in the region due to insecurity; this is a significant rise from 213,000 people displaced in 2013. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change have exacerbated the impact, increasing the need for humanitarian assistance to 3.5 million people, including 1.7 million children. ("[Improve children's wellbeing and learning in central Sahel - increasing psychosocial support in schools](#)," *Norwegian Refugee Council*, 16 February 2022)

French to pull out from Mali but not from Sahel

On 14 February, French Foreign Affairs Minister, Jean-Yves Drian announced the withdrawal of French troops from Mali but the fighting against terrorism will continue in the Sahel region. The announcement came after a virtual meeting of the Foreign Affairs Minister with his European counterparts to discuss the future for Western African region. The rise of tensions between France and Malian authorities triggered the French President Emmanuel Macron to call for "significant changes" in his country's military presence. ("[France likely to pull out of Mali but will remain in Sahel](#)," *Africanews* 15 February 2022)

WFP top official warns of worsening food crisis in the Sahel

On 16 February, Executive Director of the WFP David Beasley outlined a 400 per cent increase in the number of people at the brink of starvation in the Sahel region over the last three years until 2021. The number of people at risk has reportedly increased from 3.6 million to 10.5 million across Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. Beasley termed the development an unfolding of an absolute crisis and attributed the situation to the activities of extremist groups, droughts, and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. ("[Sahel faces worsening food crisis amid growing instability and displacement, WFP Chief warns](#)," *World Food Programme*, 16 February 2022)

INTERNATIONAL

UN to investigate alleged Russian involvement in recent killings in CAR

On 22 January, UN officials reported more than 30 civilian deaths in the violence on 16-17 January in Briatouche town. The killings were allegedly carried out by the Central African Republic (CAR) forces and mercenaries of Wagner Group, a Russian private military company, while they targeted the Union for Peace rebel group. The United Nations

Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Central Africa (MINUSCA) has sent a team to the region to probe the same and take action. In 2021, Western countries had raised concerns about the Wagner Group's involvement in the region; however, Russia rejected claims stating that the company's involvement with the CAR military unarmed. ("[UN probing alleged killings by CAR forces, Russia mercenaries](#)," *Al Jazeera*, 22 January 2022)

US authorises USD 2.5 billion arms sale to Egypt despite human rights concerns

On 26 January, the US State Department approved an arms sale worth USD 2.5 billion to Egypt despite the rising demand to halt its support on Cairo's human rights record. The sale includes 12 super Hercules C-130 transport aircraft and similar equipment worth USD 2.2 billion and three SPS-48 Land Based Radar and related equipment worth another USD 355 million. The State Department said the sales "will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a major non- NATO ally country that continues to be an important strategic partner in the Middle East." The State Department's annual report says the Egyptian government has been charged with serious rights abuses like arbitrary killings, forced detention and life-threatening prison conditions. ("[US in USD 12bn arms deal with Egypt amid rights concerns](#)," *BBC*, 26 January 2022)

Denmark to withdraw troops from Mali amid tensions with military

On 27 January, Danish Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod said Denmark will start withdrawing its troops from Mali after the military government insisted on an immediate withdrawal. Reuters quoted Kofod: "We can see that the Malian transitional government, or the coup generals, last night sent out a public statement where they again reiterated that Denmark is not welcome in Mali, and we of course will not put up with that." The decision came following the rise in tensions between Mali and international partners including the European Union over the sanctions after failed elections and the coups. Besides, the tensions escalated over the alleged deployment of Russian private military contractors, Wagner Group in Mali, which few EU countries said was incompatible with their missions. (Nikolaj Skydsgaard and John Irish, "[Denmark pulls Mali troops out as junta takes swipe at France](#)," *Reuters*, 27 January)

France expresses apprehensions over continuing mission in Mali

On 29 January, French Defence Minister Florence Parly said France has a limit to the price it pays to keep afloat its presence in the European missions in Mali. France24 quoted the Minister: “The conditions of our intervention, whether military, economic or political, have become harder and harder to manage... The conditions of our intervention, whether military, economic or political, have become harder and harder to manage.” The development comes after the military government in Mali, on 26 January, called on France to stop its alleged interference and restrict its “colonial reflexes.” (“[France will leave Mali if price of staying too high, defence minister says](#),” *France24*, 29 January 2022)

Somaliland, Taiwan to grow “special relationship” despite isolation

On 9 February, Somaliland’s Foreign Minister Essa Kayd visited Taiwan for his government’s first cabinet level visit amid condemnation by China. Somaliland broke away from Somalia to be self-governing democracy in 1991, but remained unrecognised by most of the world. Kayd remarked that Somaliland and Taiwan, both diplomatically isolated governments, are expanding their economic and political ties as “champions of democracies in Africa and Asia.” Meanwhile, The Chinese Foreign Ministry said Taiwan is “fanning the flames to undermine the independence and unification of other countries, harming others without benefiting themselves” through the delegation. Somaliland’s Foreign Minister said that China cannot dictate who Somaliland can have relations with and is “born free”. (“[Somaliland, Taiwan hail ‘special relationship’ amid isolation](#),” *DW*, 9 February 2022; “[Somaliland says it was ‘born free’ and Beijing can’t dictate to it over Taiwan relations](#),” *SCMP*, 11 February 2022)

EU announces USD 170 billion investment for Africa

On 10 February, European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen announced USD 170 billion worth of investment in Africa under Europe’s Global Gateway investment scheme. The Global Gateway initiative aims to invest USD 339 billion in public and private infrastructure schemes around the world by 2027. The EU’s Global Gateway Africa-Europe investment package focuses on the

green transition and protecting biodiversity by stabilising three million square kilometres of land. Support will also be given to sustainable growth and job creation. On 9 February, Von der Leyen announced a green energy investment plan in Morocco that is worth USD 18 million. The investment scheme is generally viewed as a counter proposal to China’s Belt and Road Initiative. (“[EU reveals EUR 150 billion investment plan for Africa](#),” *DW*, 10 February 2022)

Deported Cameroonians suffered rights violation in the US, outlines HRW report

On 10 February, a report by Human Rights Watch claimed that Cameroonians deported from the US between 2019 and 2020 were subjected to persecution in the US and after they landed in Cameroon. The rights violations include rape, torture, extortion, detention and arbitrary arrest of the deportees and their family members. The deportations took place under the Trump administration and the report outlines that the rate of granting asylum to Cameroonians dropped by 24 per cent in 2019 to 2020, signalling a significant change given the overall drop in granting asylum was six per cent. The HRW report says of the 190 deportations of Cameroonians in the said period, 80 to 90 of them took place in October and November 2020 alone. (“[US: Deported Cameroonian Asylum Seekers Suffer Serious Harm](#),” *Human Rights Watch*, 10 February 2022)

Chagos Islands raise Mauritian flag for the first time

On 14 February, The Mauritian flag was hoisted for the first time on the Chagos islands, an archipelago in the Indian Ocean disputed between Britain and Mauritius. The red, blue, yellow, and green flag of Mauritius was raised on the Peros Banhos atoll in the islands, which saw no habitation since the British evicted residents in the 1960s and 1970s so that Diego Garcia could be leased to the US as an airbase. Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Jugnath said that he was “very emotional” and the moment was “historic” for his country. However, Britain’s Foreign Office said that the United Kingdom “had no doubt as to its sovereignty” over Chagos island which is a British Indian Ocean territory. The Mauritian Prime Minister warned that the removal of the flag by Britain would be interpreted as a “provocation.” Previously, on 8 February, Chagos Islanders sailed back to their homeland without British supervision for the first time. UK’s claim over the Island was rejected by the Special Chamber of International Tribunal for Law of the

Sea, similar to previous international rulings. Both the courts ruled that Mauritius has every right to claim the Chagos Islands. ([“Exiled Chagos Islanders return without British supervision for first time,”](#) *The Guardian*, 8 February) (Lauraine Noelle Vofo Kana, [“Mauritius plants flag on disputed Chagos Islands,”](#) *Africanews*, 16 February 2022)

French court closes probe into the 1994 attack on the Rwandan presidential plane

On 15 February, France’s top court closed the probe regarding the shooting down of the Rwandan presidential plane in 1994. The court dismissed the appeal by the relatives of 1994 victims of the attack. In 1998, the family members of the French flight crew brought the case to the court and suspected Rwandan soldiers, Paul Kagame aides and Rose Kabuye, of being behind the attack that sparked the Rwandan genocide. However, the Cour de Cassation stated that they found no “sufficient charges against anyone for committing the alleged crimes, nor any other infraction” for defending the cause of dropping the case in December 2018. It confirmed the decision of the Court of Appeal of Paris in 2020 and dismissed French magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguières conclusions when he stated the probe 22 years ago. This ends the long-standing investigation into the plane attack of the Rwandan President Juvénal Habyarimana, which strained France and Rwandan relations. ([“French top court closes probe into 1994 shooting down of Rwandan Presidential plane,”](#) *Africanews* 16 February 2022)

Sixth European Union-African Union Summit in Brussels

On 18 February, the Sixth EU-AU summit kicked off in Brussels with the aim of recalibrating and strengthening the partnership between Europe and African countries on economic and strategic terms. The two-day summit comes amid concerns over the pandemic management and a recent wave of coups in various parts of Africa. President of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat emphasized on the need for a strengthening bond between European Union and Africa for better economic progress. “Africa is developing a diversity of partnerships that do not have the same history or the same history or the same scope as our partnership with Europe. The new partnership are no less relevant and beneficial to Africa and, from this point of view, are worthy of respect and consideration,” said Moussa Faki Mahamat. On his arrival at the summit, the Senegalese President Macky Sall said there were still differences over the financing of fossil fuels as a sensitive issue and he awaits to see how far EU is willing to extend the cooperation in financing these projects. (Minasse Wondimu, [“What to expect at the 6th EU-AU summit,”](#) *Al Jazeera*, 18 February 2022; [“EU, AU](#)

[seek to bolster relations as summit gets underway,”](#) *Africanews*, 18 February 2022)

Niger accepts French and European forces to secure border

On 18 February, President Mohamed Bazoum accepted the French and European special forces to be deployed into its territory from Mali to boost security near the border of its neighbouring country. This comment by the President came a day after France and its European allies announced the withdrawal of troops from fighting rebel groups in Mali. President Bazoum said on twitter that “Our goal is for our border with Mali to be secure,” adding, “This area will be even more infested, and the terrorist groups will strengthen. We know that they are destined to extend their influence”. In contrast to this the leader of the movement against foreign troops in Niger, Maikol Zodi said “It is unacceptable and intolerable to accept this redeployment on our territory. If they do, we will treat them as an occupying force.” (Benoit Tessier, [“After Mali exit, Niger accepts foreign forces to secure border,”](#) *Al Jazeera*, 18 February 2022)

CLIMATE CHANGE

Southern Africa hit by storm Ana, killed dozens in Malawi, Madagascar and Mozambique

At least 60 people died in severe flooding followed by heavy rain and thunderstorms in Southern Africa in the wake of storm Ana. Madagascar declared a state of national disaster as the death toll rises. About 48 people died and 130,000 are being forced to leave their homes in Madagascar. Malawi reported 11 deaths. Several areas are out of power for days and many regions have been declared as disaster zones. In Mozambique, at least 18 people reportedly died and 20,000 people are severely affected by the flood. More than 10,000 homes and dozens of schools and hospitals were destroyed in the country. “The situation is of extreme concern and vulnerability is very high” the UN’s resident coordinator in Mozambique, Myrta Kaulard said. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said more investment was essential to “protect and save lives”. The deadly storm shows the reality of the climate crisis, a UN official said. ([“Storm Ana kills dozens in Malawi, Madagascar and Mozambique,”](#) *BBC*, 28 January 2022; [“Storm Ana: Deadly Africa storm shows climate reality - UN,”](#) *BBC*, 29 January 2022)

Death toll rises to 120 as Cyclone Batsirai sweeps away villages in Madagascar

On 11 February, Al Jazeera reported that about 120 people had been killed and more than 60,000 people displaced after strong winds and rain caused by Cyclone Batsirai hit Madagascar. Batsirai was the second major storm to hit Southern Africa in two weeks. On 7 February, President Andy Rajoelina visited Mananjary to examine the destruction and relief efforts. The developments come barely a week after tropical storm Ana hit Madagascar causing heavy casualties. A UNICEF representative said providing relief to the affected areas would be challenging as several key roads have been destroyed. (“[Madagascar: Death toll from cyclone Batsirai rises to 120](#),” *Al Jazeera*, 11 February 2022; “[Cyclone Batsirai: At least 20 killed in Madagascar tropical storm](#),” *Al Jazeera*, 7

February 2022)

SPORTS

Senegal wins its first ever AFCON title with Sadio Mane’s conclusive penalty

On 6 February, Senegal claimed their first Africa Cup of Nations with a 4-2 penalty shoot-out victory against seven-time winners Egypt. Sadio Mane scored the final kick creating history for the West African country at Cameroon’s Olembe Stadium. Senegal’s goalkeeper Edouard Mendy saved a shoot-out kick from Mohanad Lasheen, which gave Mane the chance for his decisive kick to beat his Liverpool teammate Mohammed Salah. “It just shows that if you work hard, if you preserve, you will get what you want,” said Senegal coach Aliou Cisse. The next AFCON is scheduled to take place in Ivory Coast in June and July 2023. (“[Mane converts decisive penalty as Senegal win AFCON final](#),” *Al Jazeera*, February 6 2022)

About NIAS Africa Studies

As a part of the area studies initiatives, the Institute started a focussed study on Pakistan in 2020. In 2021, it expanded the area studies to include Europe Studies, China Reader, and Maritime Studies. In 2022, the Science, Technology and International Relations (STIR) programme at the Institute is further expanding its area studies, to include Africa.

The primary focus of NIAS Africa studies would be on the following five verticals: contemporary political issues, colonial legacies, problems of governance, civil-military equations, and the rise of radical Islamic groups. The primary objective is to study Africa from an internal prism. ,

NIAS Africa Studies would include a series of expert lectures, workshops, publications and a weekly exclusively focussed on Africa. The initiative also aims to create a network of young scholars studying Africa and also African scholars studying in various Indian institutions.

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The Biden-Putin, and Modi-Putin Summits
President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi meet in a diplomatic effort to reduce the budding tensions in the eastern banks of the Indian Ocean.



The US and Russia: Biden-Putin video conference
On 7 December, US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin met in a video conference in a diplomatic effort to reduce the budding tensions in the eastern banks of the Indian Ocean.


The US-South Korea Security Alliance has Endured
President Biden was joined and accompanied by President Park in his efforts to reiterate American support for the US-South Korea security alliance.

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The Glasgow Compromise on Coal: Phasing down, instead of phasing out
The Glasgow summit managed to reach a compromise on coal, and agreed to "phase-down" instead of "phase-out" coal, rather than a phase-out.


The Glasgow Compromise on Coal: Phasing down, instead of phasing out
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Biden-Xi virtual summit, and Russia's ASAT test
Aviation, Global, and Russia Challenges



China: 'Virtual meeting between Biden and Xi calls for greater cooperation'
Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden met in a virtual summit on 20 November to discuss the relationship between the two countries.


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COP 26 agreements on methane and deforestation, and elections in Japan
Russia, Global, and Election News



COP26: Focus on Deforestation, Methane, and Coal
The 26th session of the UN Climate Change Conference began in Glasgow, United Kingdom, on 23 November. It is the largest climate conference since the Paris Agreement in 2015.

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11 January 2022, Vol. 1, No. 11

Reviewing the COP 26: Major Agreements, Issues, and Challenges
COP 26 concluded with three major agreements on methane, coal and deforestation. Previous initiatives agreements on methane, coal and deforestation have not been able to deliver the commitment. The new agreements will have to be the highlight of the previous ones to be successful.



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Will against Malaria: Will the WHO-Approved RTS,S Vaccine be a gamechanger?
Though the newly approved RTS,S vaccine provides a ray of hope for regions severely affected by malaria-like Africa, the road ahead is a long and difficult one. Producing more efficacious vaccines, increasing healthcare funding, and a deeper research agenda at the Global South towards the Global South are some of the key challenges in the way of the complete elimination of malaria.



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The Race for Hypersonic Missiles
In the 21st century, hypersonic missile technology has become the need of every country. It is viewed as a vital to modern power. China, the US, Russia, and North Korea have already tested missiles. Several countries like India, Australia, France, Germany, and Japan are also moving in the development of the technology. The consequences of the race, however, would be catastrophic.




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