



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

OCTOBER, 2022

Week-4

22-31 Oct., 2022

★★ Useful for ★★

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Services Exams,
SSC and Banking Exams**

22nd OCTOBER, 2022

Lothal to get National Maritime Heritage Complex

World's oldest dockyard, Lothal, is set to get a National Heritage complex.

Key Highlights

- The National Maritime Heritage Complex is being developed at a cost of Rs 3,500 crore.
- The complex will have several innovative features, including the i-recreation, which will recreate Harappan architecture and lifestyle through immersive technology and four theme parks.
- It will also house the world's tallest lighthouse museum, along with 14 galleries, highlighting India's maritime heritage starting from the Harappan time till today.
- In 2014, Lothal was nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, however, its application is still pending.
- The excavated site of Lothal is the only port-town of the Indus Valley Civilisation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Mission LiFE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Mission LiFE movement (Lifestyle for the Environment) at the Statue of Unity in Gujarat.

Key Highlights

- First proposed by the Prime Minister at COP 26, Mission LiFE is envisioned as an India-led global mass movement that will nudge individual and collective action to protect and preserve the environment.
- The Prime Minister and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres unveiled the LiFE logo and tagline.
- As many as 500 people participated in the event, including 116 Indian Heads of Missions abroad,

UN Heads of Agencies in India, Union Minister of External Affairs, the Chief Minister of Gujarat, senior government officials, development partners, and others.

- PM Modi underlined that Mission LiFE makes the fight against climate change democratic, in which everyone can contribute within their capacity.

About LiFE

- The concept of LiFE was introduced by the Prime Minister at COP26 at Glasgow on 1 November 2021.
- On 5 June 2022, on World Environment Day, India furthered the vision of LiFE by launching the LiFE Global Movement, inviting academicians, researchers and start-ups across the world to think about specific and scientific ways in which the full potential of collective action can be harnessed to address the environment crisis.
- Mission LiFE is designed with the objective to mobilise at least one billion Indians and other global citizens to take individual and collective action for protecting and preserving the environment in the period 2022 to 2027.

Government to launch Kashi-Tamil Sangamam' programme

The Union Education Ministry will organize 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam' – a month-long programme from the month of November.

Key Highlights

- Kashi Tamil Sangamam will rediscover the link between Kashi and Tamil Nadu, the two ancient centres of knowledge, culture and heritage.
- It is proposed to bring common practitioners of these knowledge streams from Tamil Nadu to Varanasi so that not only experts but they also benefit from the cultural exchange.

- As a part of this programme, participants will be given the chance to attend academic sessions, visit places in and around Varanasi and Ayodhya, including the Ganga cruise.
- The attendees shall travel in groups to Kashi in special coaches attached to trains that depart from Chennai, Coimbatore and Rameswaram on 12 different dates.
- Each group shall spend eight days in total from start to return. All guests will be entitled to free travel and free accommodation at Kashi and Ayodhya.
- The program will be organized under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The hosting partners of this event will be IIT- Madras and Banaras Hindu University.
- The CCI also noted that Google has leveraged its dominant position in the app store market for Android OS to enter as well as protect its position in non-OS specific web browser market through Google Chrome App.
- In April 2019, the trade regulator had ordered a detailed investigation into the matter following complaints by consumers of Android-based smartphones in the country. Android is an open-source, mobile operating system installed by Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of smartphones and tablets.
- The allegations of unfair business practices pertained to two agreements -- MADA and Anti Fragmentation Agreement (AFA) -- which were entered into by the OEMs of Android OS with Google.

23rd OCTOBER, 2022

CCI imposed Rs 1,337.76 crore penalty on Google

Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1,337.76 crore on Google for abusing its dominant position in the Android mobile device ecosystem.

Key Highlights

- The Competition Commission accused Google of 'abusing its dominant position' in multiple markets in the android mobile device ecosystem.
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) said it has further directed Google to modify its conduct within a defined timeline.
- The CCI said that mandatory pre-installation of the entire Google Mobile Suite (GMS) under Mobile Application Distribution Agreement (MADA), with no option to uninstall the same, and their prominent placement amount to the imposition of unfair conditions on the device manufacturers and thereby contravenes competition law.

Pakistan come out of 'gray list' of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has excluded Pakistan from the grey list of the global watchdog on terror financing and money laundering after four years.

Key Highlights

- According to FATF, Pakistan is no longer subject to FATF's increased monitoring process; to continue to work with APG (Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering) to further improve its AML/CFT (anti-money laundering & counter-terrorist financing) system.
- Pakistan was put in the list in 2018 for its failure to check risk of money laundering, leading to corruption and terror financing.
- Pakistan needed 12 votes out of 39 to exit the grey list and move to white list. To avoid black list, it needed support of three countries. China, Turkey and Malaysia are its consistent supporters.
- Following being placed on the gray list by FATF in June 2018, the country was given a plan of action to complete it by October, 2019. Since then the country continues to be in that list due to its failure to comply with the FATF mandates.

- With Pakistan's continuation on the grey list, it had increasingly become difficult for Islamabad to get financial aid from the IMF, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union, thus further enhancing problems for the cash-strapped country.
- Rishi Sunak became the ruling Conservatives' new leader after triumphing over rival contender Penny Mordaunt, who failed to secure enough nominations from Tory MPs.
- Sunak, a Hindu, is the first British-Indian prime minister and, at 42, the youngest leader in more than two centuries.

About FATF

- The FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- The FATF currently has 39 members including two regional organizations -- the European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council.
- India is a member of the FATF consultations and its Asia Pacific Group.

Rishi Sunak become the UK's first Indian-origin Prime Minister

Rishi Sunak became Britain's third prime minister this year and the first person of colour to lead the former imperial power.

Key Highlights

- Rishi Sunak is the first person of Indian origin to become the British Prime Minister.
- Rishi Sunak addressed the nation outside 10 Downing Street after his appointment by King Charles III.
- Last month, Rishi Sunak had lost the Conservative Party leadership contest to Liz Truss, who went on to formally take charge as the UK prime minister. However, Truss could not get a quick handle on the crisis plaguing the nation and was forced to resign after being in power for just 45 days.
- Following the resignation of Liz Truss as UK PM, the Conservative party rushed for a fast track election, which saw a race between Rishi Sunak and Penny Mordaunt for the top post.

24th OCTOBER, 2022

Prime Minister Launches the 1st Phase of "Rozgar Mela"

Prime Minister Narendra Modi the Rozgar Mela recruitment drive to hire 10 lakh personnel.

Key Highlights:

- In the first tranche, 75,000 new appointees will be given jobs. The new recruits, selected from across the country, will join 38 government ministries and departments.
- They will be appointed across various levels viz. Group A, Group B (Gazetted), Group B (Non-Gazetted) and Group C.
- "Rozgar Mela" is an important step towards fulfilling the Prime Minister's continued commitment to provide employment opportunities to the youth and ensure the welfare of the citizens. As per instructions of the Prime Minister, all Ministries and Departments are working to fill existing vacancies against sanctioned posts in mission mode..
- The recruitment will take place across central armed forces personnel, sub-inspectors, constables, LDCs, Stenos, PAs, income tax inspectors, MTS among others.

World Polio Day 2022

World Polio Day 2022 is observed every year on October 24 to raise awareness about the polio vaccination and eradication of polio from every corner of the world.

Key Highlights:

- The day is observed to commemorate the progress made by the world towards polio eradication.
- The day to raise awareness of the importance of polio vaccination to protect every child from this devastating disease, and to celebrate the many parents, professionals and volunteers whose contributions make polio eradication achievable.
- This year, the overarching theme of World Polio Day is "World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond: A healthier future for mothers and children".

Cyclone Sitrang hits Bangladesh

Cyclone Sitrang recently hit densely populated areas in Bangladesh.

Key Highlights:

- Cyclone Sitrang ploughed into heavily populated, low-lying parts of Bangladesh, killing at least nine people.
- The districts of Barguna, Narail, Sirajganj, and the island district of Bhol all reported death. Officials warned that as more casualties are reported from other districts, the death toll could rise.
- Cyclone Sitrang quickly degraded into a deep depression after crossing Bangladesh, and as of Tuesday morning, it had further degraded into a low pressure region.
- Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura may experience widespread moderate to heavy rainfall on Tuesday due to the system, which is now moving towards northeastern areas of India.

25th OCTOBER, 2022

Meeting of Like Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) held virtually

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav participated in the virtual Ministerial Meeting of the Like Minded Developing

Countries (LMDC) titled 'Preparations for COP 27 on Climate Change – Expectations and Challenges' recently.

Key Highlights

- 18 Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) who usually present a common front at climate negotiations issued a statement, a large part of which is a wish list of sorts for the forthcoming UNFCCC (United Framework Convention of Climate Change) Conference of Parties (COP).
- The statement reiterated the inequity in fund allocations for global warming mitigation efforts.
- The Union Minister highlighted the challenges arising out of climate change being faced in the year gone by.
- He expressed his disappointment about the developed countries having turned back to enhanced use of fossil fuel, and urged that the cumulative emissions of every country or carbon budget partaken, must be within their fair and equitable share.
- The Union Minister encouraged the LMDC colleagues to step forward at COP27, to support the Egyptian Presidency, prepare a plan of action in respect of adaptation and loss and damage, the two issues at the center of all developing nations' attention.
- Financial issues have been amongst the most contentious at the past COPs. Yet, the record of the premier global climate convention has been botched by its failures to meet funding goals, especially the ones pertaining to the LMDC group which represents about 50 per cent of the world's population.

Two more Indian beaches get Blue Flag Certification

Two Indian beaches, Minicoy Thundi beach and Kadmat beach, located in Lakshadweep, have received the International eco-label 'Blue Flag'.

Key Highlights

- Indian beaches in Lakshadweep -- Minicoy, Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach have received the International eco-label 'Blue Flag' recently.
- India now has a total of 12 "blue beaches", including Shivrajpur, Ghoghla, Kasarkod and Padubidri, Kappad, Rushikonda, Radhanagar, Golden, Kovalam, and Eden.
- Both the beaches -- Minicoy, Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach have designated staff for beach cleanliness and maintenance and for the safety and security of swimmers.
- Thundi Beach is a pristine and picturesque beach in the Lakshadweep archipelago where white sand is lined by turquoise blue water whereas Kadmat Beach is popular with cruise tourists who visit the island for water sports. It is famous for its pearl white sand, blue lagoon waters and moderate climate.

About Blue Flag certification

- International eco-label 'Blue Flag' is an eco-label given to the cleanest beaches in the world.
- The Blue Flag certification is accorded by Foundation for Environment Education (FEE). FEE is a non-profit organisation promoting sustainable development through environmental education. It is based at Copenhagen, Denmark.
- To qualify for the Beaches Blue flag certification, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety-related and access-related criteria are supposed to be met. The beaches shall comply with all the 33 criteria which are mandated by the Foundation for Environment Education.
- Blue flag mission promotes sustainability in the tourism sector, through environmental education, environmental protection and other sustainable development practices.

Government officially restricted the use of popular herbicide glyphosate

The Center has officially restricted the use of the widely used herbicide, glyphosate, fearing risk to human and animal health.

Key Highlights

- From now, glyphosate will be applied only through pest control operators (PCOs).
- PCOs are licensed to use deadly chemicals for treating pests such as rodents.
- Glyphosate has been majorly used in tea plantations in India where it is applied to control herbicides. The chemical is also used on non-crop areas to control unwanted growth.
- These include areas alongside irrigation channels, railway sidings, fallow land, bunds, farm borders, parks, industrial and military premises, airports, power stations, etc.
- Traces of glyphosate have been even found in crops such as chana where farmers use it to desiccate the produce.
- The use of glyphosate rose manifold once Ht BT cotton started getting illegally cultivated in India.
- To implement the order, all certificates of registration for the chemical that companies have to get for its manufacture or sale have now to be returned to the registration committee.
- The order says if any company fails to return the registration certificates within three months, appropriate action will be taken under the Insecticides Act of 1968.
- Glyphosate is already banned in some states.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer published a study in 2015 that said glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic to humans".

26th OCTOBER, 2022

Partial Solar eclipse witnessed in many parts of the country

India and a few other places in the world today witnessed a partial solar eclipse.

Key Highlights:

- A partial solar eclipse is an eclipse in which the Moon does not cover the Sun completely.
- This makes the visible part of the Sun appear as crescent-shaped. Except some parts of the northeast region, the event was seen in most parts in the country.
- The cities where the partial solar eclipse was witnessed for longer than an hour include Dwarka, New Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Surat, Pune, Jaipur, Indore, Thane, Bhopal, Ludhiana, Agra, Chandigarh, Ujjain, Mathura, Porbandar, Gandhinagar, Silvasa, Surat, and Panaji.
- The eclipse was visible in the region covering Europe, the Middle East, north-eastern parts of Africa, western Asia, the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Indian Ocean. The next solar eclipse will be visible from India on 2nd August, 2027 and it will be a total solar eclipse.

National Intellectual Property Award won by IIT Madras

The national award for intellectual property was given to the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) for 2021 and 2022.

Key Highlights:

- The prize was established by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- This award has encouraged IIT Madras to produce and safeguard more and more intellectual property with societal effect.

- The yearly award honours those who have excelled, including individuals, institutions, organisations, and businesses, for their intellectual property innovations and commercialization that support the development of the nation's IP ecosystem and promote innovation.

27th OCTOBER, 2022

Delhi SAMRIDDHI 2022-23 scheme launched

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena launched the 'SAMRIDDHI 2022-23' which is a one-time property tax amnesty scheme.

Key Highlights

- SAMRIDDHI stands for Strengthening and Augmentation of Municipal Revenue for Infrastructure Development in Delhi.
- The tax amnesty programme includes a 'One Plus Five' option for residential properties and a 'One Plus Six' option for non-residential properties.
- The SAMRIDDHI 2022-23 scheme will allow residential property owners to pay only the current and previous five years' principal property tax.
- Commercial property owners can pay the principal amount for the last six years and receive a waiver on past pending dues, including penalty and interest.
- Tax liability is waived, which means more money in the hands of taxpayers and more revenue for MCD.
- The new amnesty scheme will further increase the tax base and act as an enabler for MCD to build a proper tax database by being more pragmatic about the enforcement of its long-pending tax dues.

New Zealand Government passed Plain Language Act

The New Zealand Parliament has passed legislation that bans the bureaucracy from using inexplicable jargon and complex language while communicating with the public.

Key Highlights

- According to the New Zealand government, the passage of the Plain Language Act aims to make democracy more inclusive, especially for non-native English speakers, people with disabilities, and those who are under-educated..
- The law was based on the United States Plain Writing Act of 2010 which requires the US Federal Government to produce public documents in a 'clear, concise, well-organized' manner.
- The legislation will now be sent for the Royal Assent.
- The bill got the support from the Labour, Green and Maori parties, while the National Party vowed to repeal it if elected next year.

Tiger Triumph exercise conducted by US and Indian militaries

The Indian and US militaries carried out a three-day joint humanitarian assistance exercise in Visakhapatnam in line with the growing strategic cooperation between the two countries.

Key Highlights

- The "Tiger Triumph" tabletop simulation was organized at India's Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam.
- It is a comprehensive endeavor of the Indian and US military and diplomatic representatives to provide coordinated disaster relief.
- Tiger Triumph exercise sought to improve interoperability between India and the US and create a multinational command and control model for humanitarian assistance in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Its objective was to streamline diplomatic, operational, and logistical coordination between the two countries while responding to disasters.
- 50 individuals from India and the United States took part in this exercise.

- The 2022 edition of the Tiger Triumph exercise is the second joint exercise between India and the US focusing on disaster relief.
- It is the first tri-services exercise between the US and India. It was organized under the aegis of the Integrated Defence Staff headquarters.

28th OCTOBER, 2022

India hosted two-day UNSC's counter-terrorism meet

India hosted the two-day anti-terrorism meeting of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Key Highlights:

- The meeting, under New Delhi's chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), held in Mumbai and New Delhi.
- The theme of the meeting was 'Countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes.
- The meeting provides opportunities to discuss existing and evolving threats, the deployment of new and emerging technology to counter those threats, continuing challenges, and good practices, as well as a range of related human rights and gender considerations.
- Before the meeting the committee members paid homage to the 26/11 victims. Speaking after paying tributes, External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar said, 14 years ago the city of Mumbai witnessed the most shocking terror attack of our times and the city was held hostage due to terrorists from across the border.
- He said India has endeavoured to bring the perpetrators and masterminds of the 26/11 attack to justice. Dr. S Jaishankar said the task remains unfinished. He said, 26/11 will never ever be forgotten.

He said, coming together of UNSC's counter terror committee to the venue of the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel is special and significant.

- UNSC Chairman and Foreign Minister of Gabon Michael Moussa Adamo said terrorists must be deprived of resources.

Inflation on agenda, RBI to hold special MPC meet.

The Reserve Bank called a special meeting of the Monetary policy committee (MPC) to prepare a report on its failure to keep retail inflation below 6 per cent for three consecutive quarters.

Key Highlights:

- Inflation has remained above the upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent for nine consecutive months or three quarters
- Under the provisions of Section 45ZN of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act an additional meeting of the MPC is being scheduled on November 3, 2022. Section 45ZN of the Act deals with failure to maintain the inflation target.
- The consumer price-based index (CPI), or retail inflation, accelerated to 7.4 per cent in September from 7 per cent in August. CPI has been above the Reserve Bank's tolerance band of 2-6 per cent since January 2022, resulting in a 190 basis points (bps) increase in repo rate since May this year.

29th OCTOBER, 2022

Asia's largest Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plant in Lehragaga, Punjab

Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann and Union petroleum minister Hardeep Puri inaugurated India's largest bioenergy plant at Bhutal Kalan village in Sangrur's Lehragaga.

Key Highlights

- This is the largest biofuel (biomethane/bio-CNG) production unit in India with 33 TPD (tonnes per day) capacity of compressed biogas.
- The plant has been commissioned with a foreign direct investment of approximately Rs. 220 crores by Verbio AG, one of Germany's leading bio-energy companies.
- It is spread out across around 20 acres.
- The factory currently produces about 6 Tons Per Day (TPD) of CBG, but soon it will use 8 digesters with a combined capacity of 10,000 cubic meters to process 300 tons of paddy straw each day.
- Sangrur CBG plant will use 100,000 tonnes of paddy straw, which will be sourced from 6 to 8 satellite locations within a 10 km radius of the plant.
- About 600-650 Tons of FOM (Fermented Organic Manure), which can be used for organic farming, shall be produced each day.
- Additionally, the CBG Plant will employ 390 people directly and 585 indirectly.
- The CBG plant is a step toward achieving the goals of the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme, which was introduced by the government in October 2018 and aims to create an ecosystem for the production of compressed biogas from various waste or biomass sources in the nation.

Interpol Metaverse launched at the 90th General Assembly

Interpol recently launched the first ever metaverse specifically designed for law enforcement agencies worldwide during its 90th General Assembly in Delhi.

Key Highlights

- This "fully operational" Interpol Metaverse allows registered users to tour a virtual facsimile of the Interpol General Secretariat headquarters in Lyon, France without any geographical or physical boundaries, interact with other officers via their

avatars, and even take immersive training courses in forensic investigation and other policing capabilities.

- During an interactive session at Pragati Maidan, where the four-day General Assembly was held, delegates from 195 member countries were able to digitally enter the Lyon building through avatars, using virtual reality headsets, the global policy body said.
- The World Economic Forum, which has partnered with the Interpol, Meta, Microsoft and others in an initiative to define and govern the metaverse, has warned that social engineering scams, violent extremism and misinformation could be particular challenges.
- Interpol also announced the creation of an expert group on metaverse to represent the concerns of law enforcement on the global stage – ensuring this new virtual world is secure by design.
- The metaverse holds many benefits for law enforcement, notably in terms of remote work, networking, collecting and preserving evidence from crime scenes, and delivering training.
- Capacity building in the metaverse holds particular promise, offering students more opportunities to collaborate and network, ensuring a greater engagement through immersion and enabling hands-on activities.

‘Solar Facility’ approved by the International Solar Alliance

To boost investments in solar power projects, the International Solar Alliance, in its General Assembly meeting approved the ‘Solar Facility’.

Key Highlights

- “Solar Facility” is a payment guarantee mechanism expected to stimulate investments into solar projects through two financial components — a Solar Payment Guarantee Fund and Solar Insurance Fund.
- The solar facility is expected to stimulate high potential solar technologies, by attracting private

capital to flow into underserved markets in Africa, while ensuring a payment and insurance mechanism as a first loss guarantee.

- The ISA will soon operationalize Solar Facility to crowdsource investments from various donors across the globe and proposed projects in Africa will be able to purchase payment guarantees or partial insurance premium from these funds.
- The alliance has drafted a framework agreement for its ambitious ‘One Sun One World One Grid’ (OSOWOG).

30th OCTOBER, 2022

IEA released World Energy Outlook 2022 report

The International Energy Agency (IEA) recently published its report “World Energy Outlook Report 2022”.

Key Highlights

- **Increase in energy demand in India:** According to the report, India's energy requirements are increasing and will peak in the coming decade despite a growth in renewables. India will have the highest population by 2025. This, along with urbanization and industrialisation, India will witness the “largest increase in energy demand of any country”.
- **Increase in coal demand:** In India, the demand for coal will continue to rise, as per the report. This demand will peak anywhere between the late 2020s and early 2030s. However, the peak will be followed by a steep decline in coal demand as the deployment of renewables in the power sector picks up. With just over 10% of global coal consumption, India is also the world's second largest coal consumer today.
- **Increase in share of renewables:** Government programmes such as the Gati Shakti National Master Plan and the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan could promote a “robust growth” in renewables and electric

mobility, notably for two/three wheelers. And by 2030, renewables will meet more than 60% of the growth in demand for power, and account for 35% of the electricity mix, with solar PV alone accounting for more than 15%. However, coal will still meet a third of overall energy demand growth by 2030, and oil, mainly for transport, another quarter.

- **Need for finance:** The need for finance is set to increase by 50% in the STEPS scenario, but for the NZE scenario, it needs to increase by 200%.
- **Ukraine war pushed nations towards renewables:** The report said that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has caused a global energy crisis and it may offer for nations to switch to renewable energy as has been through governmental responses that have followed, such as the USA's Inflation Reduction Act which promotes clean energy, and India and China's ambitious clean energy targets.
- **Low emission sources:** Low emissions sources account for around 40% of electricity generation, with 30% coming from renewables and another 10% from nuclear, as per the report. But with an accelerating deployment of solar PV and wind power, these renewables will account for 45% as per the STEPS.
- **Implementing pledges is crucial:** The report stated that governmental policies across the world, including in India, offer hope and, if implemented properly, could possibly limit global warming to around 1.7 degrees Celsius by the year 2100.
- **India's zero emission goal:** India promised to reduce the emissions intensity of its Gross Domestic Product by 45% from 2005 levels by the year 2030, and achieve about 50% cumulative non-fossil fuel electric power by 2030 as part of its updated NDC in August this year. India could be within reach of its goal to achieve net zero emissions by 2070.

About IEA

- The IEA is an autonomous intergovernmental organisation.

- It analyses data on energy use and requirements and provides policy recommendations and solutions to countries for sustainable energy growth.
- The IEA's World Energy Outlook report, published annually, captures the world's energy trends and transitions and predicts future trajectories.
- **Stated Policies Scenario (STEPS):** The report takes into account current policy measures on energy, called the Stated Policies Scenario, shows the trajectory implied by current settings.
- **Announced Pledges Scenario (APS):** 'Announced Pledges Scenario' (APS) assumes that all aspirational targets announced by governments are met on time and in full, including their long term net zero and energy access goals.
- **Net Zero Emissions by 2050 (NZE) Scenario:** It analyses how nations will limit global warming to 1.5°C, together with universal access to modern energy by 2030.

Lancet Countdown report on Health and climate change

The 2022 report of the "Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: health at the mercy of fossil fuel" was released recently which shows how climate change is driving severe health impacts all around the world.

Key Highlights

- The report represents the work of 99 experts from 51 institutions, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The key finding of report are:
- Extreme weather- According to the report, during 2021 and 2022, extreme weather events caused devastation across every continent, adding further pressure to health services already grappling with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Heatwave-Because of the rapidly increasing temperatures, vulnerable populations were exposed to more heatwave days in 2021 than annually in 1986–2005 and heat-related deaths increased by 68% between 2000–04 and 2017–21.

- Infectious disease-The changing climate is affecting the spread of infectious diseases, putting populations at higher risk of emerging diseases and co-epidemics.
- **Economic losses:** The economic losses associated with climate change impacts are also increasing pressure on families and economies, further undermining the socioeconomic determinants of good health.
- **Food security:** Every dimension of food security is being affected by climate change, aggravating the impacts of other coexisting crises. The higher temperatures threaten crop yields directly, with the growth seasons of maize on average 9 days shorter in 2020, and the growth seasons of winter wheat and spring wheat 6 days shorter than for 1981–2010 globally.
- **Health system:** As per report , with the worsening health impacts of climate change, populations worldwide increasingly rely on health systems as their first line of defense. Urgent action is therefore needed to strengthen health-system resilience and to prevent a rapidly escalating loss of lives and to prevent suffering in a changing climate.
- **Fossil fuels:** Fossil fuel dependence is not only undermining global health through increased climate change impacts, but also affects human health and wellbeing directly, through volatile and unpredictable fossil fuel markets, frail supply chains, and geopolitical conflicts.
- This was the country's closest election in over three decades. Just over 2 million votes separated the two candidates with 99.5 per cent of the vote counted. The previous closest race, in 2014, was decided by a margin of 3.46 million votes.
- Da Silva, in 2018 was imprisoned over a corruption scandal that sidelined him from the 2018 election that brought Bolsonaro, a defender of conservative social values, to power.
- Da Silva's inauguration is scheduled to take place on January 1, 2023. He last served as president from 2003-2010.
- Lula has vowed social policies that helped lift millions out of poverty when he was previously president from 2003 to 2010.
- He also promised to combat destruction of the Amazon rainforest, now at a 15-year high, and make Brazil a leader in global climate talks
- Da Lula, in 1980, co-founded the Workers' Party, standing as its candidate for president nine years later.
- He Lula lost three presidential bids from 1989 to 1998, finally succeeding in 2002 and again four years later. This was his sixth presidential campaign.
- Da Silva is credited with building an extensive social welfare programme during his 2003-2010 tenure that helped lift tens of millions into the middle class as well as presiding over an economic boom.
- Da Silva was jailed for 580 days for corruption and money laundering. His convictions were later annulled by Brazil's top court.

Lula Da Silva becomes president of Brazil

The leftist leader Lula da Silva recently is elected as new President of Brazil after defeating incumbent far right President Jair Bolsonaro.

Key Highlights

- With more than 99 per cent of the votes were tallied in the runoff vote, Da Silva has earned 50.9 per cent votes and Bolsonaro got 49.1 percent votes.

31st OCTOBER, 2022

PM Modi presides over Rashtriya Ekata Divas parade

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presided over the Rashtriya Ekata Divas parade at the Statue of Unity at Kevadiya in Gujarat.

Key Highlights:

- Prime Minister also paid floral tributes to Sardar Patel on his birth anniversary.
- Addressing the occasion, Prime Minister said Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is a tribute to the invaluable role of Sardar Patel in unifying our nation.
- He said unity has always been a uniqueness of India but there are attempts to break and divide the country even today. He urged people to refrain from the negative narratives that try to divide the country into the lines of religion, caste and language.
- Prime Minister said all the policies of the central government aim at bringing the people of the last mile into the mainstream of development by offering equal opportunities to all citizens as envisioned by Sardar Patel.

Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar to felicitate farmers

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is organizing an event “Expansion of Horticulture Value Chain in India – Potential and Opportunities” in Maharashtra.

Key Highlights:

- According to an official statement, the Minister will inaugurate the Exhibition and felicitate farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Agri Start-ups, entrepreneurs, and bankers for their contribution to the field of Horticulture.
- He will also launch a book, “Organic Packaging of Practice for Horticultural Crops”, a compilation of success stories of the Horticulture Sector.
- It will bring relevant stakeholders such as farmers, FPOs, Centre of Excellence (CoE) in various crops, ICAR Crop Specific National Research Centres, and Precision Farming Development Centres on the same platform.

PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of C-295MW project



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said, India is moving towards becoming a global manufacturing hub with growing cost-effective manufacturing capabilities, global-standard comparative environment and ease of doing business.

Key Highlights:

- The Prime Minister after laying the foundation stone of C-295MW transport aircraft manufacturing project at Vadodara, Gujarat said, this project will be a milestone in achieving goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The Prime Minister said, with this Make in India Initiative the country will acquire capabilities to make transport aircraft and in future, will be able to make even passenger aircrafts in India. Mr Modi said this project will help in achieving the goal of defence products manufacturing worth 25 billion dollar and defence export worth five billion dollar.
- It will be India's first transport aircraft manufacturing project worth around 22,000 crore rupees. C-295MW transport aircrafts will be manufactured in India by private companies, Airbus Defence and TATA consortium.
- India will be the 12th such country which have capabilities of transport aircraft manufacturing. This project will strengthen the logistic capabilities of the Indian Air Force. 40 aircrafts will be manufactured in the country.
- The C-295MW transport aircraft manufacturing project will strengthen the India Air Force and create an entire new ecosystem for the domestic aviation sector.