

NEWS TODAY

“CLIMATE CHANGE 2021 - THE PHYSICAL SCIENCE BASIS”: REPORT BY IPCC

• Report presents **key findings of Working Group I (WGI) contribution to IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).**

• Key highlights

➤ The Current State of the Climate

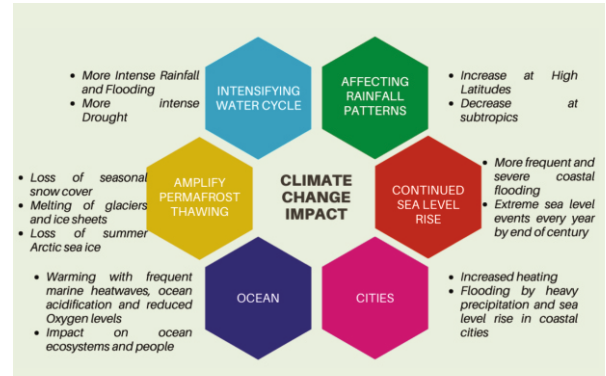
- Range of total human-caused global surface temperature increased from 1850–1900 to 2010–2019 is 0.8°C to 1.3°C.
- In 2019, atmospheric CO₂ concentrations were higher than at any time in at least 2 million years.
- **Equilibrium climate sensitivity is 3°C.**
 - Climate sensitivity is the global mean surface air temperature increase that follows a doubling of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

➤ Possible Climate Futures

- **Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during 21st century** unless deep reductions in CO₂ and other GHG emissions occur.
- **Changes in several climatic impact-drivers would be more widespread at 2°C** compared to 1.5°C global warming.

➤ Limiting Future Climate Change

- Requires limiting cumulative CO₂ emissions, **reaching at least net zero CO₂ emissions**, along with strong reductions in other greenhouse gas emissions, especially methane.



○ About India

- Northern India was among **highest emitter of ammonia (NH₃) concentration.**
- **Only Short-lived Climate Forcers (SLCF) in which India showed a decrease was black carbon.**
 - SLCF remain in the atmosphere for a much shorter period of time than carbon dioxide, yet **their potential to warm the atmosphere can be many times greater.**

GOVERNMENT DELAYING COLLEGIUM RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES, SAYS SUPREME COURT (SC)

• Supreme Court questioned **delays at centre's end for acting on recommendations of Collegium** and for appointing judges to High Courts.

➤ It mentioned that this **has adversely impacted functioning of the third pillar of democracy** bringing the judicial system to a working halt and will eventually bring to halt administrative system also.

➤ As of August 1, a total of **455 posts of HC judges were lying vacant in the 25 HCs across the country against the total strength of 1,098.**

• Earlier this year, SC in **PLR Projects Ltd vs Mahanadi Coalfields Pvt Ltd Case** had for the **first time prescribed a judicially mandated timeline** for government to make appointments of judges in the HC.

➤ Once the SC collegium has endorsed the recommendations, **central government was to make such appointments within 3-4 weeks** of receiving the collegium's decision.

• **Collegium System:** It is a system where a **committee of CJI, four senior judges of SC and three members of a HC** (in case of appointments in HCs) take decisions related to appointments and transfer of judges in SC and HCs

COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

S. P. Gupta vs. Union of India - 1981

Under Article 124(2) and Article 217(1) of the Constitution, SC/HC judges have to be appointed by the President after "consultation" with the CJI. Govt was not bound by the CJI's recommendation.

Supreme Court Advocates-on Record Association vs. Union of India - 1993

In 1993, SC introduced the collegium system taking over primacy in appointments of SC judges.

In re Special Reference 1 of 1998

In 1998, a nine-judge Constitution bench ruled that "consultation" must be effective and the CJI's opinion shall have primacy.

Veto power

Government could return collegium's recommendation. But if a recommendation was sent again, government was bound by it.

SUPREME COURT (SC) TURNS DOWN AMAZON, FLIPKART PLEA AGAINST COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA (CCI) PROBE

- The apex court **refused to interfere with Karnataka High Court's order which declined to stop the investigation** initiated by Competition Commission of India (CCI) against Amazon and Flipkart for **alleged anti-competitive practices**.
- The Inquiry had been set up after **receiving information from an MSME trader group about preferential treatment given by these companies** to certain sellers, **holding indirect stakes in them**.
 - **Vertical agreements** between Flipkart and Amazon with their preferred sellers led to **foreclosure of other non-preferred traders** from these online marketplaces via **predatory pricing, preferential treatment and deep discounting**.
 - **Deep discounts** - A large or greater than usual reduction in price eg. discounts offered for certain cell phone sales online.
 - **Predatory pricing** -Illegal act of setting prices low in an attempt to eliminate the competition and later, with fewer competitors, the predator raising prices to recoup losses.
- To counter this, government has brought out **Draft e-commerce policy that aims to ensure that e-commerce entities do not create digital monopolies and ensure equal treatment of all sellers** or vendors registered on their platforms.

○ About CCI

- CCI is a **statutory body** under the **Competition Act, 2002**.
- The **duty of the Commission is to eliminate practices** having adverse effects on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.

AT UNSC DEBATE, PM LISTS OUT 5 PRINCIPLES FOR GLOBAL MARITIME SECURITY

- PM chaired a **high-level debate on maritime security**, titled, "Enhancing Maritime Security - A Case for International Cooperation"- **one of three signature events being organised by India during its presidency of the UN Security Council**.
 - This is in line with the **Indian initiative SAGAR, i.e. Security And Growth for All in the Region**.

Five Principles	Rationale
Removing barriers from legitimate maritime trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oceans are world's common heritage and modern sea routes are lifeline of International trade.
Settling maritime disputes through peaceful means and on the basis of international law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nations should settle maritime disputes based on UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. ● E.g. India resolved its disputes with Bangladesh based on it.
Jointly facing natural disasters and maritime threats created by non-state actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Globally, acts of piracy and armed robbery increased by 20% during 1st-half of 2020 despite declined maritime traffic volume. ● Need is to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000).
Preserving the maritime environment and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oceans are vital for not just livelihood but social and cultural life of impoverished coastal communities.
Encouraging responsible maritime connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presently, we have International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code for it.






THE CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021

- Aim of the bill is to **clarify some provisions in the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018** to help **restore power of states to identify backward classes**.
- **102nd CAA, 2018** had given constitutional status to the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)** under Article 338B.
 - **It also inserted two new articles - Article 324A** which deals with Central List of the socially and educationally backward classes and **article 366(26C)** which defines socially and educationally backward classes.
 - However, **issue arose when** while scrapping quota for Marathas, **Supreme Court ruled that after 102 CAA 2018, only the Centre can notify socially and educationally backward classes, not the states**.
- In India, **separate OBC lists** are drawn up by the Centre and each state concerned since 1993.
 - **Articles 15(4), 15(5) and 16(4) expressly conferred power on a state** to identify and declare the list of socially and educationally backward classes
- Thus, by amending 338B, 324A and 366(26C), the **127th Amendment Bill seeks to clarify that State Government and Union territories are empowered** to prepare and maintain their own State List/ Union territory List of SEBCs.

PRIME MINISTER (PM) LAUNCHES ₹11,000 CRORE OIL PALM MISSION

- Recently, the PM announced a **National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)** to boost domestic oilseed production and make the country self-sufficient in cooking oils.
 - The NMEO-OP's predecessor was the **National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)**, implemented during the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017).
- **Key features of the mission**
 - **Farmers will get all facilities**, from quality seeds to technology to promote farming to produce palm oil and other oil seeds.
 - **Expanding the cultivation of other traditional oilseed crops** (like groundnut, rape seed, mustard, linseed, sesame etc.)
 - **Northeastern states** and **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** to be promoted for palm farming.
- **India is the world's biggest vegetable oil importer- producing less than half** of the edible oil that it consumes annually.
 - **The rest is imported:** Palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia, Soy oil from Brazil and Argentina, and Sunflower oil, mainly from Russia and Ukraine.
- **Other government initiatives**
 - Technology Mission on Oilseeds.
 - Oil Palm Area Expansion under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.
 - Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM).

NEWS

 <p>CoWIN Portal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recently, government allowed the foreign nationals residing in India to register on CoWIN Portal by using passport as identity proof and get vaccinated. ● CoWIN is an open source platform, developed for online registration for Covid-19 Vaccination programme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It allows upto 4 people to register using same mobile number for scheduling/rescheduling of vaccination in advance. ● At CoWIN Global Conclave India offered the platform to all nations as a digital public good to combat Covid-19.
 <p>India Internet Governance Forum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To be hosted in India for the first time, it will reflect country's growing influence on international policy formulation around internet. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ India is the second-largest broadband subscription country in the world and also has highest data consumption per user per month. ➢ Theme of the events is 'Inclusive Internet for Digital India'. ● IGF is an UN-based forum for Internet Governance policy discussion. It brings together representatives from various groups, considering all at par to discuss public policy issues related to Internet.
 <p>Colombo Security Conclave</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is the renamed version of National Security Advisor (NSA) Level Trilateral on Maritime Security (of 2011) with India, Sri Lanka and Maldives as members and Secretariat at Colombo. ● Recently, in Deputy-NSA talks, Bangladesh, Mauritius and Seychelles accepted offer to become full members of the conclave from existing observer members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It will further help the security conclave in better cooperation and coordination and build capacity to handle common security threats effectively.
 <p>Cyber-security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Security Council Secretariat has set a baseline requirement for cyber-security audits in view of increasing threats of cyber-attacks on critical infrastructure, especially from China. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It entails six stages - Management, protection, detection, response, recovery and lessons learnt and will be mandatorily applicable on owners of critical information infrastructure. ● National Security Council is a three-tiered organization that oversees political, economic, energy and security issues of strategic concern. It is presided over by National Security Advisor.
 <p>Road accidents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways called upon public private collaboration for reducing road accidents and improving road safety through utilization of corporate social responsibility fund. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ India has a target of achieving 50 percent of reduction of road deaths by 2025 and zero accident related fatalities in the country by 2030. ● India is also a signatory to Brasilia Declaration which had aimed to halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2020.



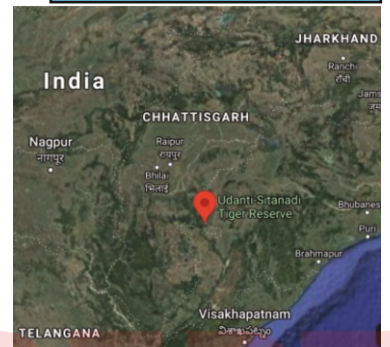
India Institute of Heritage

- To **promote higher education and research** in fields related to India's **rich heritage and its conservation**, the Ministry of Culture has decided to set up the **Indian Institute of Heritage at Noida**.
 - > It will offer **post graduate and PhD courses** in history of arts, conservation, museology, archaeology etc.
- It will function as a **'deemed to be University'**, integrating a number of schools across India like NRLC (Lucknow), School of Archival Studies under National Archives of India (New Delhi) etc.



Places in news

- **St. Vincent & The Grenadines**
 - > India's Prime Minister (PM) **condemned an attack on his St. Vincent and the Grenadines' counterpart**, who was injured at a protest against a proposed vaccine mandate.
 - > St Vincent and the Grenadines is a chain of 32 islands in the **southern Caribbean**.
- **Sitanadi Udanti Tiger Reserve (TR)**
 - > In a first, the Chhattisgarh government has **recognised the Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights in an urban area** and in the core area of a tiger reserve.
 - The **Forest Rights Act, 2006**, provides for individual as well as community forest rights.
 - > There **are 4 TRs in Chhattisgarh including** Sitanadi Udanti TR: Achanakmar Tiger Reserve, Guru Ghasi Das National Park and Indravati Tiger Reserve.
- **Mount Merapi**
 - > Recently, the **most volatile and active volcano in Indonesia erupted**.
 - > This **peak is near Yogyakarta**, an ancient city of several hundred thousand people embedded in a large metro area.
 - > Indonesia is **prone** to earthquakes and volcanic activity because it **sits along the Pacific "Ring of Fire,"** a horseshoe-shaped series of seismic fault lines around the ocean.



Personality in news

- **Dhara Shikoh** (20 March 1615- 30 August 1659)
 - > As per the Archaeological Survey of India, the **final resting place of Mughal prince remains a mystery**.
 - > The Ministry of Culture had formed a committee to locate the grave inside the Humayun Tomb's Complex in 2020.
 - > He was the **eldest son of Shah Jahan** and was **killed after losing the war of succession against his brother Aurangzeb**.
 - > He is **described as a "liberal Muslim"** who tried to find commonalities between Hindu and Islamic traditions.
 - > He **translated into Persian the Bhagavad Gita as well as 52 Upanishads**, which were earlier known only to a few upper caste Hindus.
 - > He showed keen **interest in Sufi mysticism** and was **initiated** into the **Kadiri order of Sufis**.