

DAILY PT POINTERS

9th November, 2023



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS 2_IR(Page 1)

G-7 meet appeals for humanitarian pauses in Gaza

Foreign Ministers who met in Tokyo seek the release of hostages and a return to a 'broader peace process', offer to draw up long-term solutions



- G-7 Foreign Ministers called for humanitarian pauses in the Israel-Hamas war to let aid in and help the release of hostages and sought a return to a “broader peace process”, as Israeli forces continue to strike the Gaza Strip.
- The G7, a group of developed nations that gets together every year to discuss global challenges, is made up of the US, the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS 3/Economy(Page 6)

Kerala forms Organic Farming Mission to boost agriculture



- The Kerala government has created an Organic Farming Mission to encourage the adoption of sustainable organic and climate-smart farming practices in the State.
- The mission aims at expanding organic farming to 5,000 hectares in the next five years through an annual target of 1,000 ha.

What is organic farming?

- It is a method of farming system which primarily aimed at cultivating the land and raising crops in such a way, as to keep the soil alive and in good health by use of organic wastes (crop, animal and farm wastes, aquatic wastes) and other biological materials along with beneficial microbes (biofertilizers) to release nutrients to crops for increased sustainable production in an eco friendly pollution free environment. Government has been promoting organic/natural farming through dedicated schemes namely Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North East Region (MOVCDNER). Government has formulated National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) as a separate and independent scheme from 2023-24 by up scaling the Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddati (BPKP)

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu :Environment-GSIII (Page 10)

Importance of 'loss and damage' funds

When was the decision to establish a loss and damage fund taken and in which Conference of Parties did member states take concrete steps to bring this fund to fruition? What is the role of the Transitional Committee? Have the meetings by this committee been successful?



- At the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP 19) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Warsaw, Poland, in 2013, representatives of member countries formally agreed to establish the L&D fund. It was being created to provide financial and technical assistance to economically developing nations that were incurring L&D due to climate change.
- at COP 27 in November 2022, after intense negotiations, representatives of the UNFCCC's member states agreed to set up the L&D fund and a Transitional Committee (TC) to figure out how the new funding mechanisms under the fund would operate. The TC was also to prepare recommendations that countries would consider, deliberate on, and potentially adopt by COP 28.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : GS2-IR(GS 2)(Page 12)

Brazil will give continuity to India's Presidency of G-20, says Ambassador

As India's G-20 Presidency comes to close, Prime Minister Modi to host Voice of Global South Summit and G-20 Summit virtually on November 17 and 22; Brazil will host G-20 in 2024, and the COP30 Climate Change Summit in 2025, and hopes to work closely with partners like India, Indonesia



- India prepares to end its G-20 presidency this month with two separate virtual summits to be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi,
- The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation.
- It was established in 1999 as a platform for Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to discuss international economic and financial issues.
- The Group of Twenty (G20) comprises 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom and United States) and two regional bodies: the European Union and the African Union (as of 2023).
- The G20 members represent around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : Environment (Page 14)

World will overshoot 2030 fossil fuel limit by twice over: report

JACOB KOSHY,
NEW DELHI



- The Production Gap Report — first launched in 2019
- It is prepared by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Climate Analytics, E3G, International Institute for Sustainable Development and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to assess governments' planned and projected production of coal, oil, and gas against global levels consistent with the Paris Agreement's temperature goal.
- The report analyses emissions trends for 20 major fossil-fuel-producing countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the UAE, the U.K., and the U.S. “
- It reveals that governments are on track to produce more than twice the amount of fossil fuels in 2030 than would be needed to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- In other words, governments are literally doubling down on fossil fuel production; that spells double trouble for people and planet.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : Health(Page 14)

WHO hailed India's success in managing TB: Ministry

THE HINDU BUREAU

NEW DELHI



- India has made tremendous progress in improving case detection and reversed the impact of COVID-19 on the tuberculosis (TB) programme, noted the World Health Organization's (WHO) 'Global TB Report 2023' released
- TB treatment coverage, according to the report, has also improved to 80% of the estimated TB cases, an increase of 19% over the previous year.
- India's efforts have resulted in the reduction of TB incidence by 16% from 2015 to 2022, almost double the pace at which global TB incidence is declining (which is 8.7%). TB mortality has also reduced by 18% during the same period in India, and globally.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: IR(GSII)Defense(GSIII)-Page 11

Ahead of 2+2 Indo-US ministerial dialogue, maiden INDUS-X investors meeting organised

On Friday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of External Affairs Dr S Jaishankar will meet their US counterparts Antony J Blinken and Lloyd J Austin III for the fifth India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue.



- The Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) under India's Ministry of Defence and the US Department of Defence, organised the first ever INDUS-X investors' meet, where the INDUS-X Educational Series (Gurukul) was also launched.
- INDUS-X was launched in June 2023 during the state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US to expand strategic technology partnership and defense industrial cooperation between governments, businesses, and academic institutions of India and US.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: Education(Page 14)

India surpasses China, has maximum number of universities featured in QS World University Rankings: Asia

A total of seven Indian institutions feature in the top 100 ranks of QS World University Rankings.



- The UK-based ranking agency, QS Quacquarelli Symonds declared its Asia ranking for the year 2024
- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, continues to retain its top ranking in India, with China retaining its top-most position in QS World University Rankings: Asia 2024.
 - However, India has surpassed China in the number of ranked universities.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: Governance(Page 16)

Electoral Bonds and Electoral Trusts: What are they, and how do they differ?

Electoral Bonds, now under challenge before the Supreme Court, have become the primary route of political funding since they were launched in 2018. The key difference between the Trusts and Bonds is in the degrees of transparency they offer, and the Bonds Scheme's focus on the anonymity of donors



- the Supreme Court on November 3 **reserved its judgment** on the challenge to the central government's Electoral Bonds Scheme.
- Before Electoral Bonds (EB) Scheme was introduced in 2018, there was something called an Electoral Trusts (ET) Scheme, which was introduced by the UPA government in 2013.
 - Both schemes were meant to facilitate donations to political parties by corporates and individuals. But while the EB scheme seeks to ensure anonymity for the donor, the electoral trusts under the previous scheme were required to submit to the Election Commission of India a report on contributions from individuals and companies, and their donations to parties every year.
- The electoral trusts route is transparent on contributors and beneficiaries.
- Electoral bonds, on the other hand, are exempt from disclosure requirements.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: Governance/Environment

India's Energy Conservation Building Code, 2017: Why the IEA called it a 'notable exception' among developing countries

- India's Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), 2017 was first released by the Ministry of Power's Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in 2007, followed by an update in 2017.
- ECBC sets minimum energy standards for commercial buildings, with the objective of enabling energy savings of between 25 and 50 per cent in compliant buildings. The code is applicable to commercial buildings like hospitals, hotels, schools, shopping complexes, and multiplexes which have a connected load of 100 kW or more, or contract demand of 120 kVA or more.
- Currently, 23 states have notified rules to enforce ECBC compliance, while large states like Maharashtra and Gujarat are still in the process of drafting rules.
- Implementation of energy efficiency building codes like ECBC is important as buildings in India account for 30 per cent of total electricity consumption, a figure that is expected to touch 50 per cent by 2042.