

### G20 SUMMIT: WHAT'S AT STAKE?

#### **In News:**

- Heads of state and governments belonging to 20 of the world's major advanced and emerging economies have gathered for a two-day summit meeting in Bali, Indonesia.
- The 17<sup>th</sup> annual summit of G20 countries is being organized at Bali, Indonesia.
- At the end of the meeting, India, represented by PM Narendra Modi, will assume charge of the G20 presidency.
- The 18th summit will be held in India next year.

#### **News Summary: Agenda for the 2022 summit**

- The Bali summit will have three key priorities:
  - **Global Health Architecture:**
    - This involves deliberations towards strengthening global health resilience and making the global health system more inclusive, equitable, and responsive to crises.
  - **Digital Transformation:**
    - Deliberations here have centred on achieving the full potential of rapid digitalisation of the global economy by creating a new landscape of cooperation among nations.
  - **Sustainable Energy Transition:**
    - The discussions have focussed on ways to accelerate the transition towards cleaner energy sources.
    - In particular, since any such transition requires substantial investments, the efforts have been focussed on finding a platform for such investments.

#### **Summit taking place amidst challenging global outlook**

- Russia's invasion of Ukraine has not only created massive geopolitical uncertainty but also spiked global inflation.
- Persistently high inflation — at historic highs in several countries — has eroded purchasing power across these countries, thus dragging down economic growth.

- In response to high inflation, central banks across countries have raised interest rates, which, in turn, have dampened economic activity further.
- Some of the biggest major economies such as the US and the UK are set to face a recession.
- China, one of the major engines for global growth, is witnessing a sharp slowdown as it struggles with a real estate crisis.
- Also, the world economy is struggling with geopolitical rifts such as:
  - tensions between the US and China, the two biggest economies in the world; or
  - the decline in trade between the UK and the euro area in the wake of the Brexit decision.

## INDIA'S LONG-TERM STRATEGY TO TRANSITION TO A 'LOW EMISSIONS' PATHWAY INVOLVES MORE NUCLEAR POWER, MORE ETHANOL FOR THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSFORMATION

### In News:

- Recently, India announced its long-term strategy to transition to a “low emissions” pathway at the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP) ongoing in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

### About COP27:


- The 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** is currently being held in **Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt**.
- The COP is the **supreme decision-making body of the Convention**.

**India's road to 'net zero'**

At COP-27, India announced its long-term strategy to transition to a 'low emissions' pathway to become carbon neutral by 2070

**KEY MILESTONES**

- The National Hydrogen Mission, launched in 2021, aims to make India a green hydrogen hub
- At least a three-fold increase in nuclear capacity by 2032
- Achieving an ethanol blending target of 20% by 2025
- Maximising the use of electric vehicles, increase public transport
- Increased climate finance to be provided by developed nations
- The long-term strategy aims at keeping global temperatures well below 2 degrees Celsius and, ambitiously, 1.5 degrees Celsius by the century-end



Environment Minister  
Bhupendra Patel Yadav at the COP-27 summit in Egypt (Mondy REUTER)

- The climate change process revolves around the annual sessions of the COP.
- It meets every year, unless the parties decide otherwise.
- The next conference of parties i.e. COP28 will be held in Dubai, UAE in November, 2023.

## LT-LEDS (Long Term-Low Emission Development Strategy):

- At the ongoing COP27, India announced its long-term strategy to transition to a “low emissions” pathway i.e. LT-LEDS.
- The LT-LEDS is a commitment document which every signatory to the **Paris Agreement** (2015) is obliged to make by 2022.
  - So far, only 57 countries (including India) have submitted their document.
- India’s strategy is mainly based on expanding India’s **nuclear power** capacity by at least three-fold in the next decade, apart from becoming an international hub for producing **green hydrogen** and increasing the proportion of **ethanol** in petrol.
- This strategy is in line with India’s goal of being carbon neutral by 2070 — a commitment made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Glasgow, UK where the 26<sup>th</sup> COP was held last year.
- India’s LT-LEDS includes –
  - **Mode of Transportation** –
    - India “aspires” to maximise the use of electric vehicles, with ethanol blending to reach 20% by 2025 (it is currently 10%).
    - India also aims for a “strong shift” to public transport for passenger and freight traffic.

## Conclusion:

- India’s long-term strategy (LTS) can guide the growth of Indian industry, urban planning, and infrastructure creation.
- India’s LTS follows up on the **net zero pledge**. It clearly outlines key interventions across sectors that are going to be the focus of India’s efforts.
- Importantly, the document is an outcome of intensive stakeholder discussions.

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## FIRST AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION CHALLENGED

- Recently, the Supreme Court agreed to hear a petition challenging the 1st Constitutional amendment's expansion of restrictions on the freedom of speech and expression (Article 19(1) (a)) on the grounds that the amendment violates the **basic structure doctrine**.

## Article 19 of the Indian Constitution:

- **Title:** Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech, etc.
- **Rights enlisted under Article 19 (1):** All citizens shall have the right -
  - (a) to freedom of speech and expression;
  - (b) to assemble peaceably and without arms;
  - (c) to form associations or unions;
  - (d) to move freely throughout the territory of India;
  - (e) to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India;
  - (g) to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.
- **Reasonable restrictions are imposed on Article 19(1)(a) in 19(2):** In the interests of
  - The sovereignty and integrity of India,
  - The security of the State,
  - Friendly relations with foreign States,
  - Public order, decency or morality,
  - In relation to contempt of court,
  - Defamation,
  - Incitement to an offence.

## The 1st amendment to the Indian Constitution:

- **Background:**
  - In **State of Madras v. Champakam Dorairajan** (1951), the SC held that the reservation in government jobs and colleges cannot be provided on the basis of caste, as it violates Article 29(2) of the Indian Constitution.
  - **Article 29(2):** The State shall not deny admission to any individual to educational institutes maintained by or those receiving help from it solely on the basis of race, religion, caste, language, or any of them.
    - The Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951 was enacted in response to this judgement.
- **About the Constitution (First Amendment), Act 1951:**

- It made numerous significant changes in the Constitution, including exempting land reforms from scrutiny and providing protections for backward classes.
- Notably, it **broadened the extent of the restrictions** on the right to free expression.
- This amendment established the precedent of modifying the Constitution to overcome judicial decisions restricting the government's perceived responsibilities to specific policies and programs.
- **The first amendment made two key changes in Article 19(2):**
  - First, it introduced the qualification “**reasonable**” to the restrictions that Article 19(2) imposed, which leaves the door open for the courts to intervene and review the validity of restrictions imposed by Parliament.
  - Second, the amendment introduced into the Constitution the specific terms “**public order**” and “**incitement to an offence**”.
  - This new set of narrower terms in the provision was necessitated by two SC rulings in 1950 that went against the state's power to curb free speech.
  - Both these verdicts (Brij Bhushan v State of Delhi (March 1950), and Romesh Thappar v State of Madras (May 1950)) **involved the press**.
  - In both the cases, the court had to define the terms “public safety” and “public order” and examine if they fell within the scope of the restrictions allowed in Article 19(2).
  - The court struck down the laws imposing restriction on free speech on the grounds of “public safety” and “public order” as unconstitutional.

## ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING

According to Indian Navy, as many as 392 reported incidents of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing were monitored in 2021 compared to 379 in 2020 in the Indian Ocean.



### About:

- Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing continues to rise beyond India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

- Chinese fishing vessels, fishing vessels from European Union countries and other countries from outside the region were observed to be fishing in the Indian Ocean.
- Chinese deep sea trawlers have been a matter of concern for countries in the region, including India, as they are operating far from the Chinese coast and impacting local marine ecology.
- Most of the illegal activity is found in the Northern Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

### **IUU fishing:**

- IUU fishing depletes fish stocks, destroys marine habitats, puts fishermen at disadvantage and impacts coastal communities, especially in developing countries.

### **Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC):**

- The presence of extra-regional distant water fishing fleets has been monitored by Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC).
- The **Quad, comprising India, Australia, Japan and U.S.**, in May 2022 announced a major regional effort under the ambit of **Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)**.
- It aims to provide a more accurate maritime picture of “near-real-time” activities in the region.
- It is expected to catalyse joint efforts of India and other Quad partners towards addressing IUU in Indo-Pacific region.
- All vessel movements on the high seas are monitored by the **Indian Navy’s IMAC in Gurugram and the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)** which is co-located with it.
- **IFC-IOR** has been collaborating with other regional monitoring centres across the globe to enhance maritime safety and security, including efforts to monitor IUU.

### **Regional fisheries management organisations:**

- As per **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, coastal nations are responsible for addressing IUU fishing issues within their respective EEZ.
- There are **regional fisheries management organisations** such as the **Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement** operating under the mandate of **UNCLOS** as regulatory bodies to monitor IUU fishing on the high seas.



## Global Regulations:

- There are **two main regulations globally on IUU fishing:**
  - **the Cape Town Agreement and**
  - **the Agreement on Ports State Measures.**
- So far, **India is not a signatory of either agreement.**

## Vehicle management systems:

- Fishing vessels across the world are supposed to have **vehicle management systems** installed which not only identify their position, but also requires them to record the volume and location of their catch, helping to tackle the issue of IUU fishing.
  - For instance, the European Union has made it mandatory to provide this information for all fish imports.
- In India, while larger vessels, over 20 metres in length, have such **Automatic Identification Systems installed**, similar efforts for sub-20 metre vessels have been delayed.

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## MULTIMODAL LOGISTICS PARK

**Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has been awarded the project to build India's first multimodal logistics park (MMLP) in Chennai.**



### About:

- To set up the country's first MMLP, the Centre and Tamil Nadu government have come together to form a special purpose vehicle (SPV), which is amongst National Highways Logistics Management, Rail Vikas Nigam, Chennai Port Authority and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation.
- The estimated project cost is ₹1,424 crore and the total concession period is 45 years.
- The project would likely be monitored by the highest levels of the government, as it falls under the high-priority list of projects inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the Centre's project monitoring system.
- These parks will also facilitate intermodal transportation – roads, railways, and inland waterways, with the aim of strengthening and diversifying the logistics system.

## Logistics costs:

- MMPLs will play a crucial role in reducing logistics costs.
- India's logistics cost as a percentage of GDP is very high at 16 per cent, while in developed countries such as the US and Europe, it is around 8 per cent.
- China's logistics costs are 10 per cent.
- The government wants to **bring down the logistics cost to 10 per cent of GDP.**
- Under the **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP)**, launched in October 2021, the Road Ministry is developing **35 MMLPs, of which 15 MMLPs are being prioritised in the next three years.**

## [NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS 2022](#)

Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports recently announced National Sports Awards 2022.



### About:

- India's Table Tennis star **Achanta Sharath Kamal** has been conferred with the **Major Dhyanchand Khel Ratna Award for 2022.**
- Seema Punia and Lakshya Sen were amongst the **Arjuna Award** winners for this year.
- Eldhose Paul, Avinash Mukund Sable, and Nikhat Zareen were also conferred with **Arjuna Awards.**
- The **Dronacharya Award for outstanding coaches in Sports and Games Regular category** went to Jiwanjot Singh Teja (Archery), Mohammad Ali Qamar (Boxing), Suma Siddharth Shirur (Para Shooting) and Sujeet Maan (Wrestling).

### Awards:

- **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna:** It is the highest sporting honour of India. It was instituted in 1991–92. The recipient(s) is/are honoured for their outstanding performance in the field of sports over a period of four years at international level.



- **Dronacharya Awards:** It was instituted in 1985 to honour eminent Coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious International sports events.
- **Arjuna awards:** It was instituted in 1961. To be eligible for the Award, a sportsperson should have had not only good performance over the previous four years at the International level but also should have shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.
- **Dhyan Chand Award:** It was instituted in 2002. It is an award for life-time achievements in sports.
- **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award:** It is the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air.
- **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy:** It was instituted in 1956-57 to honour the top overall performing university in the Inter-University Tournaments.
- **Rashtriya Khel Protsahana Purushkar:** It was instituted from 2009 to recognize the corporate entities (both in private and public sector) and individuals who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.

## MANGROVES

According to a study published in the journal *Ecological Informatics*, certain mangrove species in Chilika and Sundarbans along the east coast and Dwarka and Porbandar along the west coast of India is likely to reduce and shift landward by 2070 due to decline in suitable habitats in response to precipitation and sea level changes.



### About:

- Scientists at the **BSIP, an autonomous institution of the Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, used Ensemble species distribution model to study the past and current state of two mangrove species and predict their future.
- They found **significant reduction and landward shift of mangroves in the future (2070)** due to decline in suitable habitats, specifically along the east and west coast of India in response to precipitation and sea level changes in the future.

- In contrast, the maximum range expansion of the mangroves was mapped in the past, which was validated by fossil pollen data.
- The findings would be useful in the implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies in the identified hotspots for conserving the coastal wetlands and reducing the impact of climate change on the coastal vegetation along the Indian coastline.
- The Indian coastline is vulnerable to the impact of climate and sea level changes, and there is not much attempt for the coastal wetland species prediction and management, with limited research carried out for their future habitat mapping.
- To fill this gap, this study tried to project the potential impact of climate change on mangroves as coastal wetland species.

## **Mangroves:**

- Mangroves support numerous ecosystem services and help reduce coastal ecological risks, yet they are one of the severely endangered ecosystems declining rapidly due to climate change, sea level fluctuations, and human activities.

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## JANJATIYA GAURAV DIVAS

**Government of India has declared 15th November as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas dedicated to the memory of brave tribal freedom fighters.**



### **About:**

- Janjatiya Gaurav Divas dedicated to the memory of brave tribal freedom fighters so that coming generations could know about their sacrifices about the country.
- India's freedom struggle was strengthened by several movements by tribal communities such as Santhals, Tamars, Kols, Bhils, Khasis and Mizos to name a few.
- **November 15 is the birth anniversary of Birsu Munda** who is revered as Bhagwan by tribal communities across the country.



# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- Birsa Munda fought bravely against the country against the exploitative system of the British colonial system and spearheaded movement against British oppression giving a call for ‘Ulgulan’ (Revolution).
  - The declaration acknowledges the glorious history and cultural heritage of tribal communities.
  - The day will be celebrated every year and would recognize the efforts of the tribals for preservation of cultural heritage and promotion of Indian values of valour, hospitality and national pride.
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