

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

India has objected to a report, called the Environmental Performance Index (EPI), 2022, that places the country last on a list of 180 countries on managing climate change, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality. The report is prepared by researchers at the Yale and Columbia universities. "High-scoring countries exhibit long-standing and continuing investments in policies that protect environmental health, preserve biodiversity and habitat, conserve natural resources, and decouple greenhouse gas emissions from economic growth," the report said. India scored low across a range of issues with "deteriorating air quality and rapidly rising greenhouse gas emissions" posing major challenges, the report said.

Russia and Turkey on Wednesday voiced support for the creation of a safe maritime corridor in the Black Sea so Ukraine can export grain to global markets amid an escalating world food crisis. A Turkish Minister said the move should also be accompanied by the easing of Western sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) has reduced the probability of people consuming less food by 76% and cutting down on the usage of utilities by 75%, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday, citing an independent study. Stressing that the government has been responsive to crises, Ms. Sitharaman cited a KPMG study done with German institution KfW, which confirmed that the PMGKY, announced in 2020 amid the COVID19 pandemic, yielded good results.

Rs.100 per quintal, the hike in minimum support price (MSP) for paddy to ₹2,040 for the 2022-23 crop year approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). The CCEA, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the increase in MSPs for all 14 summer crops for the 2022-23 crop year. The MSP of the 14 summer crops has been increased in the range of ₹92-523 per quintal. The maximum hike has been given to sesame of ₹523 per quintal, while the lowest is for maize at ₹92 per quintal.

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

### CARBON BOMBS

1.A group of environmentalists, lawyers, and activists have come together to identify and 'defuse carbon bombs'. Carbon Bombs are the coal, oil and gas projects that have the potential to contribute significantly to global warming. Each of such projects will release at least a billion tonnes of CO2 emissions into the atmosphere over its lifetime.

2.In total, around 195 such projects have been identified world over, including in the US, Russia, West Asia, Australia and India. More than 60% of these carbon bomb projects are already underway. They will collectively overshoot the limit of emissions that had been agreed to in the Paris Agreement of 2015.

3.**LINGO-The network working towards the goal of 'defusing' Carbon Bombs is called Leave It In the Ground Initiative (LINGO).** Its mission is to leave fossil fuels in the ground and learn to live without them. LINGO believes the root of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels, and the 100% use of renewable energy sources is the solution.

4.It aims to organise ground support for protesting the carbon bomb projects, challenge them through litigation, and conduct analysis and studies for the same.

### SIEVIERODONETSK

1.The Battle of Sievierodonetsk is an ongoing military engagement during the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, as part of the Battle of Donbas of the Eastern Ukraine offensive. Administratively, Sievierodonetsk falls under Ukraine's Luhansk oblast. Sievierodonetsk is one of the largest cities of the Donbas region.

2.It is located nearly 140 km south of the Russian border. It is located near the left bank of the Siverskyi Donets River, and has a population of over a lakh. Sievierodonetsk is a big industrial hub known for chemical works and machine-building factories.

3.If the city of Sievierodonetsk falls, then it will allow Russia to control the entire Luhansk region. Many fear that the city could become the next Mariupol, the southern port city that was heavily destroyed before it fell into Russian hands.

### GREEN JOBS

1.During his speech at an event to mark World Environment Day, Prime Minister mentioned India's efforts to create 'green jobs'. 'Green jobs' refer to a class of jobs that directly have a positive impact on the planet, and contribute to the overall environmental welfare. These include jobs involving renewable energy, conservation of resources, ensuring energy efficient means. In all, they're aimed at reducing the negative environmental impact of economic sectors and ultimately lead to environmentally, economically and socially sustainable enterprises and economies.

2.It furthers the process of creating a low-carbon economy or decarbonisation. Green jobs are decent jobs that: Reduce consumption of energy and raw materials; Limit greenhouse gas emissions; Minimize waste and pollution; and Protect and restore ecosystems. Green jobs can be created in all sectors and types of enterprises, in urban and rural settings, and in sub-national regions at all levels of economic development.

3.**Skill Council for Green Jobs-The Skill Council for Green Jobs (SCGJ) was launched by the Union government in 2015 under the Societies Registration Act XXI, 1860. Aligned to the National Skill Development Missions, it was set up to be a not-for-profit, independent, industry-led initiative.** It is promoted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). It aims to help manufacturers and other service providers in India's 'green business' sector to implement industry-led, collaborative skills push the country on the path to realising the potential of 'green jobs'.

4.**Green Jobs Initiative-This initiative was launched collectively in 2008 by The International Labour Organization (ILO); The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); The International Organization of**

on Wednesday voted unanimously to raise the repo rate by 50 basis points to 4.90% in a bid to slow inflation which it estimates will average 7.5% in the current April-June quarter. The RBI's move will increase borrowing costs across the board, from those seeking loans to buy cars and homes, to MSME firms looking to raise capital.

The pandemic and the ongoing geopolitical conflict may have "temporarily overshadowed" the government's recent structural reforms like the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), but they will spur India's growth potential higher once these "clouds recede", Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran asserted.

Iran is satisfied that the Indian government has dealt with those responsible for comments on Prophet Muhammed, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said during his official meetings in Delhi on Wednesday, the first such visit by a dignitary from an Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member country since the controversy erupted.

India could soon allow traders to ship out about 1.2 million tonnes (MT) of wheat as it sought to clear cargoes stuck at ports since last month's sudden ban of exports of the grain, government and trade sources said on Wednesday. But even after New Delhi's permission to export that much, about 500,000 tonnes of wheat could remain sitting at ports, as some traders had failed to secure export permits, the sources with knowledge of the matter.

"Recognising" the Indian government's "great efforts" in supporting Sri Lanka, China on Wednesday expressed willingness to work with India and the international community to help Sri Lanka tide over its crushing economic crisis.

The National Highway Authority of India has entered the Guinness World Records for the longest continuously laid bituminous lane of 75 km in 105 hours and 33 minutes on the National Highway between Amravati and Akola districts in Maharashtra.

India and Vietnam on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on mutual logistics support during the ongoing visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to the Southeast Asian nation. "The Defence Ministers signed the 'Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership

**Employers (IOE);** The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) The Green Jobs Initiative aimed at bettering placements, training and creating opportunities for individuals to work in 'green jobs'.

5.It promotes opportunity, equity and a just transition towards green economy and solutions to defining challenges such as sustainable development and climate change. It encourages governments, employers and workers to collaborate on coherent policies and programmes to realize a sustainable and just transition with green jobs and decent work for all.

6.The project aims to support its constituents, namely government, enterprises, and workers, to move towards a socially fair transition to low carbon and green economy at national and local level. The UNEP's Emissions Gap report 2019 says that it is essential for greenhouse gas emissions to reduce by 7.6% per annum between the years 2020 to 2030 in order to reach the target that was set during the Paris Agreement.

## **NATIONS AIR SPORTS POLICY**

1.The Union ministry of civil aviation (MoCA) announced the country's first national air sports policy (NASP 2022). It has been launched to improve the state of aero sports in India, with a vision to make India a hub for air sports in the world by 2030. It aims to provide a safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable air sports ecosystem in India.

**2.Highlights of the Policy: Four-tier governance structure: The air sports in India will be under a four-tier governance structure. This includes: 1) Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) as the apex governing body, 2) National associations for individual air sports or a set of air sports, 3) Regional or state and union territory level units of the national air sports associations and 4) District-level air sports associations.** About ASFI: The ASFI will be an autonomous body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and will represent India at the Lausanne-headquartered Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) and other global platforms related to air sports. It will be chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation.

**3.Functions:** It will provide governance over various aspects of air sports, including regulation, certification, competitions, awards and penalties, etc. Rules and Functions of Each air sports association: Lay down its safety standards for equipment, infrastructure, personnel and training, and specify the disciplinary actions to be taken in case of non-compliance. Inability to do so may lead to penal action by the ASFI. Coverage: It will cover 13 air sports activities like aerobatics, aeromodelling, amateur-built and experimental aircraft, ballooning, drones, gliding, hang gliding, paragliding, microlighting, paramotoring, skydiving, and vintage aircraft.

**4.Significance of the Policy: Besides the revenue from air sports activities, multiplier benefits in terms of growth in travel, tourism, infrastructure and local employment, especially in hilly areas of the country, are much greater.** Creating air sports hubs across the country will bring in air sports professionals and tourists from across the world.

**5.Need for:** The aerosports industry has expressed its displeasure that the government was not doing enough to encourage aero sports in the country despite the fact that there is a tremendous potential in the country keeping in view the diverse scenic locales.

## **JOB CHARNOCK**

1.Recent archaeological excavations in Kolkata have provided further evidence of human habitation in the city from centuries before the time British administrator Job Charnock was said to have founded the city. Charnock worked for the East India Company.

2.He was historically been credited with founding the city in 1690 when the Company was consolidating its trade business in Bengal. Between the 14th and 16th centuries, the area was under the rule of the Bengal Sultanate of the Mughals.

3.What's the issue? The view about Charnock being the founder was challenged, and in 2003, Calcutta High Court declared that Charnock ought not to be regarded as the founder. It ordered the government to purge his name from all textbooks and official documents containing the history of the city's founding. 4.The court found that a "highly civilised society" and "an important trading centre" had existed on the site long before Charnock established his settlement. Historical references: The site is mentioned in Bipradas Pipilai's Manasa Mangala (1495) and Abul

**towards 2030', which will significantly enhance the scope and scale of existing defence cooperation," the Indian Defence Ministry said in a statement.**

Fazl's Ain-I-Akbari (1596).