

## **8<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> NOV Weekly Compilation**

**(The Hindu+ Indian Express + PIB + Other World Wide News)**

### **❖ Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero**

**(Down to Earth)**

**Why in News:** At the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference, around 450 financial firms have become members of the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ).

#### **Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ)**

- GFANZ was launched in April 2021 by UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance and UK Prime Minister's Finance Adviser for COP26 in partnership with the Race to Zero campaign.
- **Purpose:** To provide a forum for leading financial institutions to accelerate the transition to a net-zero global economy.
- **Members:** Its members currently include over 450 financial firms across 45 countries responsible for assets of over \$130 trillion.
- **Annual Reporting:** The financial firms have pledged to report annually on the carbon emissions linked to the projects they lend to.

**Race to Zero is the UN-backed global campaign** rallying non-state actors: including companies, cities, and regions, financial and educational institutions to take rigorous and immediate action to halve global emissions by 2030.

### **❖ India's Targets at Glasgow COP**

**(Source: Express)**

**Why in News:** At the UN climate conference in Glasgow, the Prime Minister raised India's existing climate targets and also announced a few new targets.

**First Target:** India will reach its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030.

- Non-fossil fuels include not just renewable like solar or wind but also nuclear and hydro. According to the 2020 Central Electricity Authority's report, India's non-fossil installed capacity in 2019 was 134 GW and is projected to reach 817 GW by 2030.

**Second Target:** India will meet 50 percent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030.

- Is this target achievable? By November 2020, the share of renewable, including large hydropower, in total installed electrical capacity had already crossed 36%. Therefore, taking this target to 50% is not difficult.

**Third Target:** India will reduce the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now on till 2030. This means that India would bend its business-as-usual emissions trajectory to ensure at least 1 billion tones of emissions are saved.

**Fourth Target:** By 2030, India will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by less than 45 percent.

- According to India's third Biennial Update Report, by 2016, the emissions' intensity of GDP had fallen by 24% compared to 2005. (This estimate excludes agriculture sector emissions).

**Fifth Target:** By the year 2070, India will achieve the target of Net Zero. This means that come 2070, India will not add a single particle of carbon into the atmosphere (or rather, it will capture and store all the particles it releases).

## ❖ **INLAND SALINE WATER AQUACULTURE**

**(Source: PIB)**

**Why in News:** The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has organized a webinar on "Promotion of Inland Saline Water Aquaculture".

### **Inland Saline Water Aquaculture**

Inland saline aquaculture is the farming or culture of aquatic animals and plants using inland (i.e. non-coastal) sources of saline groundwater rather than the more common coastal aquaculture methods.

### **Benefits of Inland saline aquaculture**

- Firstly, it plays an important role in saline affected soils with low productivity as it can be used to convert the waste land into wealth land.
- Secondly, it can be used to reduce the amount of salt in underground water tables leading to an improvement in the surrounding land usage for agriculture.

### **Initiatives to Promote Inland saline aquaculture**

- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana has a component for the development of saline water aquaculture.
- The component aims to promote aquaculture in saline/alkaline areas with the help of technology infusion, training and capacity building of farmers, provision of market linkages, availability of quality seed and feed and good aquaculture practices.

### **Potential of Inland Saline Aquaculture in India**

Inland Saline Aquaculture has a huge potential in saline waters available in the northern States of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

### **Challenges in Inland Saline Aquaculture**

- Infrastructure for sustainable development of saline aquaculture
- Lack of laboratory & technology support
- Lack of buyers on demand among others

### **❖ UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK**

**(Source: The Hindu)**

**Why in News:** The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has selected **Srinagar as part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) under the Crafts and Folk Arts category.**

### **UNESCO Creative Cities Network**

UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was launched in 2004 to promote cooperation among cities which recognized creativity as a major factor in their urban development.

- **Aim:** To foster mutual international cooperation with and between member cities committed to invest in creativity as a driver for sustainable urban development, social inclusion and cultural vibrancy.
- **Categories:** The Network covers seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music.

**Cities:** The network now includes 295 cities covering around 90 countries. Indian cities apart from Srinagar are part of UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN):

- Chennai and Varanasi: Cities of music
- Jaipur: City of crafts and folk arts
- Mumbai: City of film and
- Hyderabad: City of gastronomy

## ❖ LEADS

(Source: The Hindu)

**Why in News:** The Ministry of Commerce has released the LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2021.

### LEADS (Logistics Ease across Different States):

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) had launched LEAD Index in 2018 with the main objective of ranking States and UTs on the efficiency of their logistics ecosystem.
- The first version of the Index (LEADS 2018) focused on export-import trade and assessed the efficiency of the logistics ecosystem in each State and UT.
- The second edition of the Study (LEADS 2019) covered both international and domestic trade.
- The third Version (LEADS 2021) has gone one-step ahead in analysing the domestic and EXIM logistics ecosystem of the state.



### Rankings of the Index

- **Topped by:** Gujarat has topped the index. Haryana has secured the second position followed by Punjab at third.
- **North Eastern States and Himalayan Region:** Jammu and Kashmir is the top ranker followed by Sikkim and Meghalaya
- **Union Territories:** Delhi stands at the top rank among other UTs.

**Remarkable improvement:** Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand have witnessed a remarkable improvement in their ranks compared to 2019 LEADS ranking and have emerged as the top improvers.

The inputs given by the LEADS 2021 can lead the way to bring down logistics cost by 5% over the next 5 years. Currently, the cost of logistics in India is at a high 12-13% of GDP.

## ❖ DBT-Star College Mentorship Program

(Source: PIB)

**Why in News:** The Union minister has launched the first-ever DBT-Star College Mentorship Program.

### **DBT-Star College Mentorship Program**

- The program aims to have a 'Star College' in every district of the country supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- Under the program, the Star Status Colleges will mentor the newer colleges through hand-holding and peer learning and bringing them under the aegis of Star College Scheme.

### **Star College Scheme**

The Star College Scheme was initiated by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in 2008 to support colleges and universities offering undergraduate education to improve science teaching across the country.

**Aim:** To improve critical thinking and encourage 'hands on' experimental science at undergraduate level in basic science subjects. It also aims to encourage more students to take up higher education in science.

**Support under the scheme:** Through this scheme the DBT identifies colleges with potential for excellence and provides support for developing infrastructure for academics and laboratory activities. This support is in turn expected to invigorate teaching and provide unique exposure of students to experimental science.

### **❖ Global Drug Policy 2021**

**(Source: Express)**

**Why in News:** The inaugural Global Drug Policy Index 2021 has been released.

### **Global Drug Policy Index**

**Released by:** Harm Reduction Consortium

- **Purpose:** It is a unique tool that documents, measures and compares national-level drug policies, providing each country with a score and ranking that shows how much their drug policies and their implementation align with the UN principles of human rights, health and development.
- **Parameters:** It is composed of 75 indicators running across five broad dimensions of drug policy: criminal justice, extreme responses, health and harm reduction, access to internationally controlled medicines and development. Based on these indicators, each country is then given a total score ranging from 0 to 100 with 100 as the highest score.



- India: India's rank is 18 out of 30 countries. It has an overall score of 46/100.
- Topped by: Norway has topped the Index with a score of 74/100. It was followed by New Zealand, Portugal, the UK and Australia.
- Lowest Ranking Countries: Brazil, Uganda, Indonesia, Kenya, and Mexico.

The median score across all 30 countries and dimensions is just 48/100. (48 out of 100 is a drug policy fail in anyone's book). Inequality is deeply seated in global drug policies, with the top-ranking 5 countries scoring 3 times as much as the lowest-ranking 5 countries.

Drug policies disproportionately affect people marginalized on the basis of their gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and socio-economic status. There are wide disparities between state policies and how they are implemented on the ground.

## ❖ **Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities)** **(Express)**

**Why in News:** The Department of Consumer Affairs under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has amended the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011.

### **Legal Metrology**

Metrology is the science of measurement. Legal metrology provides regulations for the control of measurements and measuring instruments. It also provides rules for protection of public safety, the environment, consumers, and traders and is critical to fair trade.

### **Amendments introduced in the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011**

- **Indicate Unit Sale Price on pre packed commodities:** Companies will be required to print 'unit sale price' on the packaged commodities. For example, a packaged wheat flour of 2.5 kg should have a unit sale price per kg along with the total MRP. This will make it easier for the consumers to ascertain the cost in unit terms.
- **Schedule 2 of rules scrapped:** The Ministry has scrapped the Schedule 2 of the rules under which 19 types of commodities were to be packed in quantities by weight, measure or number in a specified manner. Now the companies can sell the commodities in any quantity.
- **Pre Packed Commodities:** Mandatory Declaration of date of manufacture on the pre packaged commodities.
- **Mandatory Declaration of MRP:** Government has made it mandatory to declare MRP in Indian currency inclusive of all taxes on pre packed products.

Note: Pre-packed commodity means any commodity which is placed in a package without the purchaser being present and the product contained therein has a predetermined quantity.

## ❖ **Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan** (Source: The Hindu)

**Why in News:** India is hosting the 'Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan'.

### **About the dialogue**

- India is hosting the NSAs of 7 other countries including Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
- The first such meeting of NSAs was organized in Iran. Afghanistan, Iran, Russia, China, and India participated in it. Pakistan and China were also invited but didn't participate in it.
- **Goal:** To address the security concerns arising due to new developments in Afghanistan. It will address five sets of challenges from Afghanistan. 1) Terrorism, 2) Radicalisation and extremism 3) Cross-border movement of people 4) Drugs 5) weapons and equipment left behind by the US

### **Significance of the dialogue**

- It is for the first time that all Central Asian countries, and not just Afghanistan's immediate neighbours, are participating in this format.
- It will increase the possibility of India's participation in deciding the future course of action towards Afghanistan.

### **How this meeting is different from the other initiatives on Afghanistan**

- This meeting is different from other initiatives like the Heart of Asia process or the Moscow format.
- This meeting is not taking place among diplomats or foreign ministries, so, this is not a protocol-oriented meeting. It is happening between the security heads of the countries. They are in a better position for "practical cooperation" among countries— from intelligence sharing to information gathering to counter-terrorism capacity-building.

## ❖ **LEADIT Initiatives** (Source: PIB)

**Why in News:** On the sidelines of COP 26 in Glasgow, the LeadIT (Leadership Group for Industry transition) Summit 2021 was held in hybrid mode presided by India and Sweden.

### **Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)**

- **Launched by:** LeadIT was launched by the Prime Ministers of Sweden and India with support from the World Economic Forum (WEF) during the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in 2019, in New York.
- **Purpose:** Voluntary initiative for promoting low-carbon transition through active participation of private sector companies. Especially in the sectors like Iron & Steel, Aluminium, Cement and Concrete, petrochemicals, fertilizers, bricks, heavy-duty transport.
- **Members:** Currently, the Group has a membership of 16 countries and 19 companies including Dalmia Cement, Mahindra Group and Spice Jet from India.
- **Secretariat:** It is hosted by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Sweden.

### **Significance of the LeadIT Initiative**

Industry sectors together contribute about 30% of the total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Hence, initiatives like LeadIT to drive low carbon development pathways in the industry sector are critical for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

### **❖ Ganga Connect Exhibition**

**(Source: PIB)**

**Why in News:** The Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Labour & Employment has inaugurated the Ganga Connect exhibition at the City of Glasgow College amid the COP26 meeting.

### **Ganga Connect Exhibition**

Ganga Connect Exhibition is an effort to present the level of development in the Ganga river basin to the global community of environmental stakeholders who have gathered in Glasgow for the United Nations (UN) Conference of the Parties (COP-26) meeting.

**Organized by:** National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), c-Ganga and the High Commission of India

**Coverage of Exhibition:** Ganga Connect Exhibition has started in Glasgow. It will run through various cities in the UK including Cardiff, Birmingham, and Oxford and will finally end in London.

### **cGanga**

- Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga) was established at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK) in 2016.
- **Purpose:** The Centre is a Centre of Excellence for data collection, the creation and dissemination of knowledge and information for the sustainable development of the Ganga River Basin.



- The centre acts in the capacity of a comprehensive think-tank to the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).

## ❖ Climate Change Performance Index

(Source: Down to Earth)

**Why in News:** The Climate Change Performance Index 2022 has been released by Germanwatch, the New Climate Institute, and the Climate Action Network.

### Climate Change Performance Index

- Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is an independent monitoring tool for tracking the climate protection performance of 60 countries and the EU – covering 92% of the Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- **Aim:** To enhance transparency in international climate politics and enable comparison of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries.
- **Categories:** CCPI assesses each country's performance in four categories: GHG Emissions (40% of the overall ranking), Renewable Energy (20%), Energy Use (20%) and Climate Policy (20%).

### Key findings of CCPI 2022

## HAT-TRICK FOR INDIA

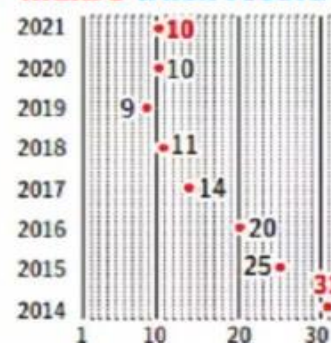
Where do countries stand in Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) Ranking



\*No country performed well enough in all four assessed categories to achieve perfect score on CCPI



### India's track record



- The first three ranks of the overall rankings were kept empty because no country had performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating.
- **Topped by:** Denmark has been placed 4th. It is the highest-ranked country in CCPI 2022 but does not perform well enough to achieve an overall very high rating.
- **India:** India has been ranked in 10th place. India's performance was rated high in the GHG Emissions, Energy Use, and Climate Policy categories, and medium in Renewable Energy.
- **China and USA:** China, the biggest current polluter, was ranked at 37th position (down from 33rd last year). The second most current emitter, the US, was at 55th spot.

## ❖ GLOBAL RESILIENCE INDEX INITIATIVE (Down to Earth)

**Why in News:** The Global Resilience Index Initiative (GRII) has been launched at COP26.

### Global Resilience Index Initiative (GRII)

GRII is a public-private partnership initiative launched to build a universal model for assessing resilience to climate risks.

**Aim:** To help global economic sectors understand the value of building climate resilience and the costs of doing nothing. This will help address the data emergency that is contributing to the climate crisis.

**Objectives of GRII:** The coalition wants to achieve two immediate goals:

- First, they want to provide global open reference risk data developed using insurance risk modeling principles.
- Second, they want to provide shared standards and facilities applicable to a wide range of uses: Corporate climate risk disclosure, national adaptation planning and reporting, and the planning of pre-arranged humanitarian finance.
- **Partners Institutions:** GRII has been initiated with partial funding and in-kind contributions from the insurance sector and partner institutions such as Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) among others

### Significance of this GRII initiative

It will be the world's first curated, open-source reference index. The initiative could enable asset owners to compare portfolio risks across geographies and hazards as well as helping countries to prioritise national adaptation investments.

## ❖ Swarna Jayanti Fellowship (Source:PIB)

**Why in News:** The Department of Science & Technology (DST) has selected 17 scientists for the Swarna Jayanti fellowship.

### **Swarna Jayanti fellowship**

Swarna Jayanti Fellowships scheme was instituted by the Government of India to commemorate India's fiftieth year of Independence (1997). Under the scheme, a selected number of young scientists are provided special assistance and support to enable them to pursue basic research in frontier areas of science and technology.

**Duration:** For a period not exceeding five years.

- Scientists selected for the fellowship will be allowed to pursue unfettered research with freedom and flexibility in terms of expenditure as approved in the research plan.
- The project should contain innovative research ideas, and it should have the potential of making an impact on R&D in the discipline. The fellowships are scientist specific and not institution-specific, very selective and have close academic monitoring.

### **Nature of Support**

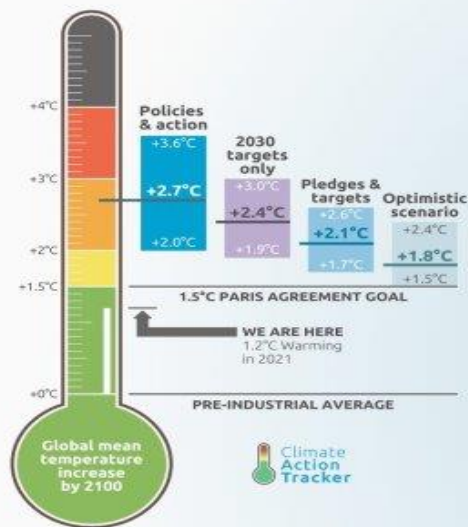
- The award consists of a Fellowship of Rs 25000/- per month in addition to the salary drawn from the parent Institute for a period of 5 years.
- The fellows selected along with their projects will be considered for funding by the Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB)

### **❖ Emissions Gap Report 2021**

**Why in News:** The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has released an update to their Emissions Gap Report 2021.

- Several Countries have announced new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) or emissions pledges during the COP26 climate summit. For example, India has announced a target to be carbon-neutral by 2070.
- However, after the assessment of these new pledges, it was found that the outcome was very similar, largely because the most ambitious emissions cuts are envisaged after 2030.
- Moreover, the report has found that there is a huge gap between the emissions cuts needed this decade to keep warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and the continuing increases in greenhouse gases pumped into the atmosphere.

- Hence, the report has projected that the country's renewed NDCs would see emissions increase by 13.7% till 2030 before sharply declining thereafter. But to keep in line with 1.5 degrees Celsius, emissions must fall 45% by then.



CAT warming projections  
**Global temperature increase by 2100**  
 November 2021 Update

## ❖ Changing Wealth of Nations 2021

(Express)

**Why in News:** The World Bank has released a report titled 'The Changing Wealth of Nations 2021'. The report is a periodic evaluation of wealth generation and distribution beyond the traditional GDP [gross domestic product] matrix and includes natural resources as part of a country's wealth.

### Key findings of the report

- Increase in Wealth:** Wealth has increased significantly across the globe between 1995 and 2018 but it did so by worsening inequality and risking future prosperity.
- Report on GDP:** GDP has traditionally been the measure of a nation's well-being. But it has been long criticized for not accounting for income inequality, pollution or other measures that affect the quality of life. Hence, the report argues for considering natural and human capital to understand whether growth is sustainable.
- Growing wealth Inequality:** Low-income countries share of global wealth has changed little from 1995 to 2018, remaining below 1% of the world's wealth, despite having around 8% of the world's population.
- Human Capital:** Human capital (earnings over a person's lifetime) is the largest source of worldwide wealth, comprising 64% of total global wealth in 2018.
- Women's wasted wealth:** In terms of human capital, imbalances disproportionately affect women across most regions. Globally, women accounted for only 37% of human capital in 2018, which was only 2% points greater than the 1995 level. In South Asia, some 80% of human capital is attributed to men.

- **Renewable Natural Capital:** Globally, the share of total wealth in renewable natural capital (forests, cropland, and ocean resources) is decreasing and being further threatened by climate change. At the same time, renewable natural capital is becoming more valuable as it provides crucial ecosystem services. For example, the value of mangroves for coastal flood protection has grown more than 2.5 times since 1995 to over \$547 billion in 2018.
- Non-Renewable natural capital wealth (minerals, fossil fuels) has declined since 2014 mainly due to falling commodity prices.

## ❖ MISSION 2070

**Why in News:** The World Economic Forum (WEF) in collaboration with Kearney and Observer Research Foundation has released a report titled “Mission 2070: A Green New Deal for a Net-Zero India”.

### Key finding of the report

India is the 3rd largest Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emitter in the world, behind the United States and China. Five sectors: energy, agriculture, industry, transportation, and infrastructure/buildings contribute to more than 96% of India’s GHG emissions today.

### Recommendations of the report

As per the report, the Decarbonization of India’s economy will require actions in five sectors that contribute to almost all its GHG emissions. The actions required are:

- **Energy:** The energy sector accounts for ~40% of India’s GHG emissions. Decarbonizing the energy sector will require a three-pronged approach: replace fossil fuels with renewable; reduce fossil CO2 emissions from legacy infrastructure through enhanced efficiencies and remove unavoidable carbon emissions through carbon sequestration.
- **Mobility:** A green transformation of mobility will need a shift in modal mix from road to rail, as well as a broad-based fuel diversification approach to encourage sustainable fuels (bio-fuels, CNG, LNG) in the immediate term, electrification in the medium term, and hydrogen-based heavy mobility in the long term.
- **Industry:** The de-carbonization of this sector will need demand-management measures such as circular economy acceleration; continued energy-efficiency improvements; carbon capture, low- carbon fuels such as biomass and hydrogen among others.
- **Green Buildings, Infrastructure, and Cities:** India’s top 25 cities contribute more than 15% of its estimated GHG emissions. India’s transition to greener cities will need a rethink of its



approach to urban planning with a focus on transit-oriented urban development and an emphasis on low-carbon buildings and infrastructure construction.

- **Agriculture:** The agriculture sector is the largest contributor to nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) and methane emissions. To reduce agriculture emissions, India will need a national campaign to empower, educate and enable farmers in adopting precision agriculture, sustainable animal husbandry, and green energy.

## ❖ **International Methane Emissions Observatory**

**Why in News:** At the recent G20 Summit, the International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) was launched.

### **International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO)**

**Launched by:** UN Environment Program (UNEP) with support from the European Union

#### **Objective of the IMEO**

- The observatory aims to provide credible data to track the country's progress on meeting methane reduction pledges and to promote best practices.
- It will initially focus on methane emissions from the fossil fuel sector and then expand to other major emitting sectors like agriculture and waste.
- It will also monitor commitments made by countries in the Global Methane Pledge, a US- and EU-led effort to slash methane emissions by 30% by 2030.

## ❖ **DART MISSION**

**(EXPRESS)**

NASA will launch its first planetary defense test mission, named the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART). The mission will be launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

#### **DART Mission**

- DART is the first technology demonstration of the kinetic impactor technique. If successful, this technique could be used to mitigate the threat in case an asteroid heads towards Earth in the future. The mission will test this newly developed technology by allowing a spacecraft to crash into an asteroid and change its course.
- After the spacecraft has collided with the asteroid, scientists will study its impact on the trajectory of the asteroid with a range of telescopes deployed on different regions of the planet. This study will help scientists understand whether the kinetic effect of a spacecraft impact could successfully deflect an asteroid on a collision course with Earth