

Daily Current Affairs 22/10/2021

1. Global Food Security Index 2021



Why in New

- India is ranked at **71st position** in the **Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021** of **113 countries**.
- The GFS Index was designed and constructed by **London-based Economist Impact** and is sponsored by Corteva Agriscience.

Key Points

Top Rankers:

- Ireland, Australia, the UK, Finland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada, Japan, France and the US shared the top rank with the overall GFS score in the range of 77.8 and 80 points on the index.

India's Rank:

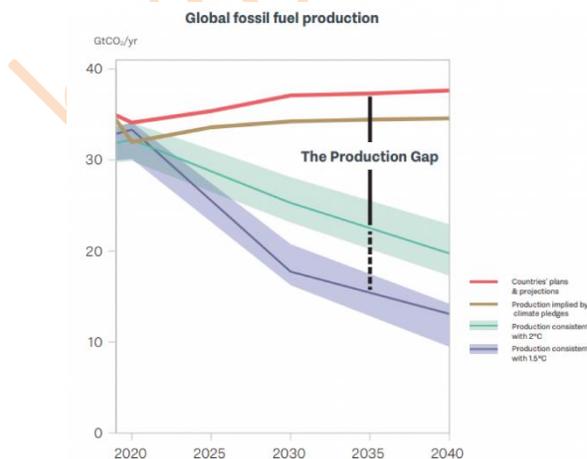
- India held 71st position with an overall score of 57.2 points on the GFS Index 2021 of 113 countries, far better than Pakistan (75th position), Sri Lanka (77th Position), Nepal (79th position) and Bangladesh (84th position).
- Pakistan (with 52.6 points) scored better than India (50.2 points) in the category of food affordability. Sri Lanka was even better with 62.9 points in this category on the GFS Index 2021.
- However, over the past 10 years, India's incremental gains in overall food security score were lagging behind that of Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh.
- India's score improved only by 2.7 points to 57.2 in 2021 from 54.5 in 2012.
- Global food security has decreased for the second year in a row after seven years of progress towards the **Sustainable Development Goal of achieving Zero Hunger by 2030**.

About Global Food Security (GFS) Index:

- The GFS Index measures the **underlying drivers of food security in 113 countries**, based on the factors of affordability, availability, quality and safety, and natural resources and resilience.
- It considers 58 unique food security indicators including income and economic inequality.

Source: Indian Express

2. UNEP Production Gap Report 2021



Why in News

- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** has released the **Production Gap Report 2021**.
- The report is produced by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Overseas Development Institute (ODI), E3G, and UNEP.

Key Points

- The report, first launched in 2019, measures the gap between governments' planned production of coal, oil, and gas and the global

- production levels consistent with meeting the Paris Agreement temperature limits.
- Two years later, the report released found the production gap largely unchanged.
 - Despite increased climate ambition and net-zero commitments, governments still plan to produce more than double the amount of energy from fossil fuels in 2030, than the amount that would limit global warming to the Paris Agreement level of 1.5°C.
 - Over the next two decades, governments are projecting an increase in global oil and gas production, and only a modest decrease in coal production.
 - Taken together, these plans mean that fossil fuel production will increase overall, to at least 2040.
 - The production gap to achieve the climate goal is the widest for coal: Production plans and projections by governments would lead to around 240 percent more coal, 57 percent more oil, and 71 percent more gas in 2030 than global levels.

Measures Taken by India to Reduce Fossil Fuel Emissions:

- India Greenhouse Gas Program
- National Action Plan on Climate Change
- Bharat Stage-VI Norms

Source: DTE

3. India, Israel, US & UAE to establish international forum for economic cooperation



Why in News

- **Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Israel Foreign Minister Yair** during a **quadrilateral (Quad) meeting** with **UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and US secretary of State Anthony Blinken** on October 19, 2021 agreed to establish a joint **economic cooperation forum**.

Key Points

- The Ministers also discussed how to support global public health in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and expand people to people ties in technology and science.
- The four ministers also held a discussion on possibilities for joint infrastructure projects in the fields of technology, transportation, maritime security, trade and economics and additional joint projects.
- During the talks, Secretary Blinken reiterated the Biden Administration's support for the Abraham Accords and normalization agreements and discussed future opportunities for collaboration in the region and globally.

About Abraham Accords:

- The Abraham Accords was signed by **Israel, UAE and the US** in August 2020 to normalise ties between Israel and the UAE.

Source: ET

4. Climate report: Africa's rare glaciers soon to disappear



Why in News

- Africa's rare glaciers will disappear in the next two decades because of climate change according to the report of the **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)**.
- **WMO** is a specialized agency of the **United Nations** responsible for promoting international cooperation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics.

Key Points

- The report, released ahead of the UN climate conference in Scotland that starts October 31, 2021, is a grim reminder that Africa's 1.3 billion people remain "extremely vulnerable" as the continent warms more, and at a faster rate, than the global average.
- And yet Africa's 54 countries are responsible for less than 4 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- The new report shows on the shrinking glaciers of Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Kenya and the Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda as symbols of the rapid and widespread changes to come.
- Estimates of the economic effects of climate change vary across the African continent, but "in sub-Saharan Africa, climate change could further lower gross domestic product by up to 3 percent by 2050".
- Already, the UN has warned that the Indian Ocean island nation of Madagascar is one where "famine-like conditions have been driven by climate change".

Source: Indian Express

5. Bhaskarabda to be used in official Assam calendar



Why in News

- The **Assam Government** has announced that **Bhaskarabda (Luni-Solar Calendar)** will be used in the official calendar by the state.
- Presently, the Assam government officially uses the **Saka calendar** and the **Gregorian calendar**.

Key Points

- Bhaskarabda, an era counted from the date of the ascension of a 7th-century local ruler, will be added

to the Saka and Gregorian in the official calendar of the Assam government.

- The Bhaskarabda calendar differs from the Gregorian calendar by 593 years.
- Bhaskarabda began when Kumar Bhaskaravarman was crowned ruler of the Kamrupa kingdom. He was a contemporary and political ally of northern Indian ruler Harshavardhana.

Type of Calendars:

- Solar, Lunar and Luni-Solar

Classification of Calendars in India:

- Vikram Samvat (Hindu lunar calendar)
- Saka Samvat (Hindu Solar calendar)
- Hijri calendar (Islamic lunar calendar)
- Gregorian calendar (Scientific solar calendar)

Source: The Hindu

6. International Conference and Exhibition on Digital technologies - “Future Tech 2021”



Confederation of Indian Industry

Why in News

- **Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics & IT** virtually attended the inaugural session of the **International Conference and Exhibition on Digital technologies - “Future Tech 2021”** organized by the **Confederation of Indian**

Industry (CII).

- The event is scheduled from 19 – 27 October 2021.

Key Points

- The **theme** of the conference is **“Driving technologies for building the future, we all can trust”**.
 - The event is based on **5 theme pillars**: Strategy, Growth, Resilience, Inclusiveness, Trust
- About Confederation of Indian Industry (CII):**
- It is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group headquartered in New Delhi, India, founded in 1895.
 - CII engages business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas.
 - It is a membership-based organisation.

Source: PIB

7. NMDC wins two Prestigious Environment Awards



Why in News

- **National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC)**, Country’s largest iron ore producer, a CPSE under Ministry of Steel has bagged **Gold Award in Environmental Sustainability category** and NMDC’s **Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine** bagged **Platinum Award in Environment Management category**.

Key Points

- NMDC is selected for the awards based on its contribution towards implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and Environment Management initiatives at its production projects.
- The award function was organised by Sustainable Development Foundation (a unit of EK KAAM DESH KE NAAM) at the 10th conference held at Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Source: PIB

8. Sajjan Jindal elected Chairman of World Steel Association



Why in News

- The **World Steel Association** has elected **Sajjan Jindal (JSW Steel Chairman and Managing Director)** as its Chairman for the 2021-22 period.
- Jindal is the first representative from India to serve as Chairman of the World Steel Association.

Key Points

About World Steel Association (WSA):

- WSA acts as the focal point for the steel industry, providing global leadership on all major strategic issues impacting the industry.
- Its members represent approximately 85 percent

of the world's steel production.

- It was established in 1967 and is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

Source: **Business Standard**

9. October 21, Police Commemoration Day 2021



Why in News

- **National Police Commemoration Day** is observed on October 21 every year.
- It is observed to salute the spirits of police forces and their families and brave police martyrs who lost their lives fighting for the country.

Key Points

History:

- On October 21, 1959, when twenty Indian soldiers were attacked by Chinese troops in Ladakh due to arguments between the troops,

ten Indian policemen lost their lives and seven were imprisoned.

- After a month, on November 28, 1959, Chinese troops handed over the dead bodies of the martyred policemen and, since that day, October 21 has been observed as Police Commemoration Day in honour of the martyrs every year.

Note: In 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **India's first national police museum in Delhi** on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day.

Source: **India Today**