

Daily Current Affairs: 22.04.2021

1. India ranks 87th in Global Energy Transition Index 2021



- India has been ranked at the 87th position among 115 countries in the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2021 that tracks nations on the current performance of their energy systems across various aspects.
- The report from the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** released and prepared in collaboration with Accenture.
 - Rank 1:** Sweden
 - Rank 2:** Norway
 - Rank 3:** Denmark
 - Rank 87:** India
- **India** has targeted improvements through subsidy reforms and rapidly scaling energy access, with a strong political commitment and regulatory environment for the energy transition.
- The index benchmarks 115 countries on the current performance of their energy systems across three dimensions- economic development and growth, environmental sustainability and energy security.
- **Facts about World Economic Forum (WEF):**
 - Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
 - Founder & Executive Chairman:** Klaus Schwab
 - Founded:** 24 January 1971

2. India elected to 3 bodies of UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- India has been elected by acclamation to three bodies of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2022.
 - i. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)
 - ii. Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
 - iii. Executive Board of the World Food Programme (WFP)



- **Facts about United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):**

Parent organization: United Nations
Headquarters: New York, United States
Formation: 26 June 1945
President: Munir Akram

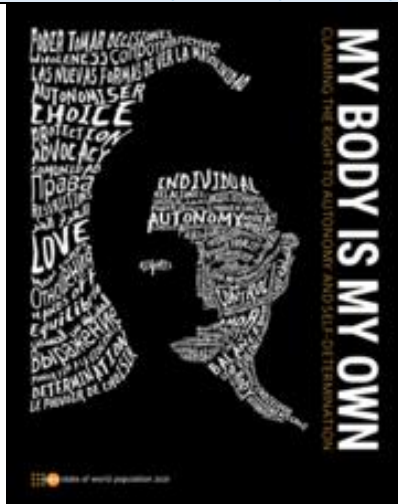
3. Singapore becomes first country to ratify RCEP trade agreement



- Singapore has become the first country to complete the official process for ratification of the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** agreement.
- **Note: RCEP agreement** was signed by all 10 ASEAN members and key partners including China, South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand at the 4th RCEP leader's summit in November 2020.
- The RCEP agreement will enter into force after six ASEAN member states and three ASEAN FTA partners have ratified it.
- All participating countries are targeting to bring the agreement into force on January 1, 2022.
- **About Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP):** It is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand,

Vietnam) and its five FTA partners (Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea).

4. UNFPA launches the State of World Population Report, 2021: 'My Body is My Own'

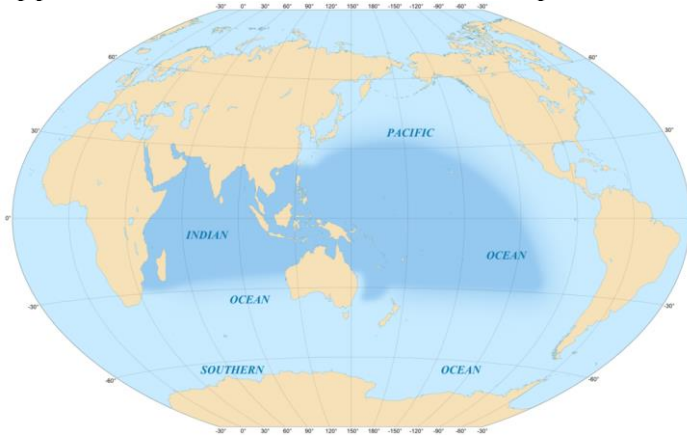


- UNFPA has launched the report State of World Population Report 2021: 'My Body is My Own' - Claiming the right to autonomy and self-determination.
- For the first time, a United Nations report focuses on bodily autonomy - the power and agency to make choices about your body without fear of violence or having someone else decide for you.
- Nearly half the women from 57 developing countries do not have the right to decide regarding their bodies including using contraception, seeking health care, or even on their sexuality.
- **Note:** In India, according to National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-4 (2015-2016), only about 12% of currently married women (15-49 years of age) independently make decisions about their own healthcare, while 63% decide in consultation with their spouse. For a quarter of women (23%), it is the spouse that mainly takes decisions about healthcare.
- **Facts about United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):**
 - Headquarters:** New York, United States
 - Executive Director:** Natalia Kanem
 - Founded:** 1969
 - Parent organization:** United Nations

5. Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative: Australia announces Rs 8.12 crore grant under its partnership with India

- As India and Australia increase engagement under the Indo-Pacific vision, Australia has announced an Rs 8.12 crore grant under the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).
- To apply for the grant, the company or organization should be located in either India or Australia and have partners in either of the 2 countries. Up to

\$350,00 is anticipated to be available for allocation in 2020-21. All applications will be assessed on a competitive basis.



- **Note:** The Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative was proposed by PM Narendra Modi at the East-Asia Summit in November 2019.
- In June 2020, after the virtual summit of Indian and Australian PMs, foreign ministers of both countries, Marise Payne and S Jaishankar, signed a joint declaration on "Shared Vision for Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific."
- **Facts about Australia:**
Capital: Canberra
Currency: Australian dollar
Prime Minister: Scott Morrison

6. NASA's Perseverance rover on Mars makes oxygen from planet's carbon dioxide atmosphere



- It is the second successful technology demonstration on the mission, which flew a mini-helicopter earlier.
- The generation of oxygen was performed by a toaster-sized unit in the rover called **Moxie - the Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment**.
- It made 5 grams of the gas - equivalent to what an astronaut at Mars would need to breathe for roughly 10 minutes.
- NASA is planning that future human missions would take scaled-up versions of Moxie with them to the Red Planet rather than try to carry all the oxygen needed to sustain them.

- Mars' atmosphere is dominated by carbon dioxide. The expectation is that it can produce up to 10 grams of O₂ per hour.

7. Tamil Nadu teenager Arjun Kalyan becomes India's 68th Chess GrandMaster (GM)



- Arjun Kalyan became India's 68th Grandmaster. The 18-year-old from Chennai crossed the 2500 ELO mark after scoring a win over Dragan Kosic in the 5th round of the ongoing GM Round Robin "Rujna Zora-3" in Serbia.
- **Note:** Viswanathan Anand became the **1st Grandmaster** from India in 1988.
- Leon Mendonca from Goa became India's **67th Grandmaster** in 2020.

8. Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor M Narasimham passes away



- M Narasimham was the first and only governor to be appointed from the Reserve Bank cadre.
- He served as the 13th RBI governor for seven months between May and November, 1977.
- After his stint at the RBI, Narasimham joined the International Monetary Fund where he served as Executive Director and later at the World Bank. He also served as the Finance Secretary in 1982.

- Narasimham is considered as the father of banking reforms. He headed two committees in 1991 and 1997 that had critical influence on the country's banking sector.
- He was honoured with Padma Vibhushan in 2000.

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