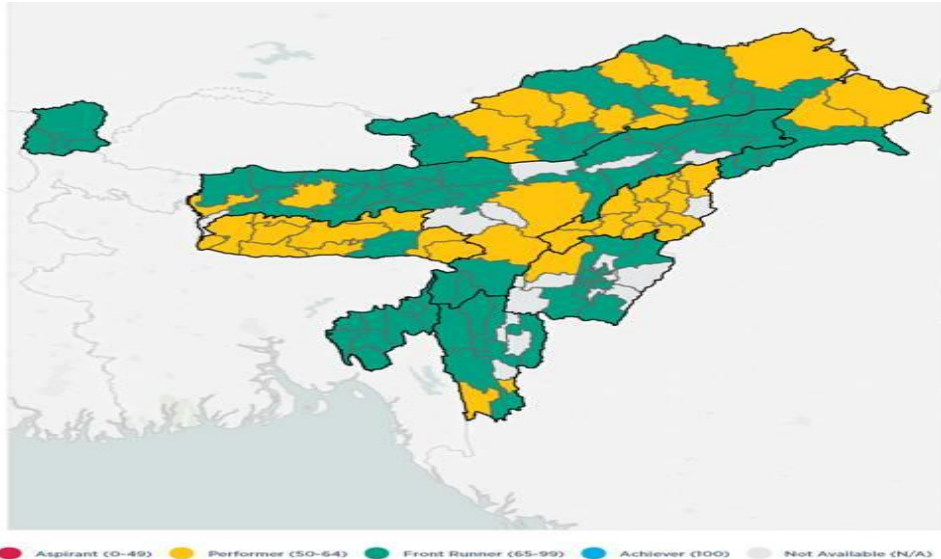


Daily Current Affairs 30/08/2021

1. First edition of North Eastern Region District SDG Index 2021–22 Why in News



- NITI Aayog released the first edition of the **North Eastern Region (NER) District SDG Index Report and Dashboard 2021–22**.
- It is designed and developed by the NITI Aayog in collaboration with the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)** with technical support from **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.

Key Points

About NER District SDG Index:

- The Index measures the performance of the districts of the **8 States** of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura on the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and their corresponding targets and ranks the districts based on the same.

- It is based on **NITI Aayog's SDG India Index** – the principal and official tool for monitoring progress on SDGs at the national, State, and Union Territory level.
- It offers insights into the social, economic, and environmental status of the region and its districts in their march towards achieving the SDGs.

Overall Results and Findings:

- Out of the 103 districts considered for ranking, 64 districts belonged to the Front Runner category while 39 districts were in the Performer category in the composite score and ranking of districts.
- All districts in Sikkim and Tripura fall in the Front Runner category and there are no districts in the Aspirant or Achiever categories.
- **East Sikkim (Score 75.87) ranks first** in the region followed by districts **Gomati and North Tripura (Score 75.73) in the second position.**
- The score for the 103 districts ranges from 53.00 in Kiphire to 75.87 in East Sikkim.

Source: PIB

2. Meeting of BRICS Environment Ministerial 2021



Why in News

- **The 7th meeting of the BRICS Environment Ministerial** was held under the **chair of India.**
- **BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa)** brings together the major emerging economies of the world, hosting 41% of the world population, contributing 24% of the world GDP and over 16% share in world trade.

Key Points

About the meeting:

- Chairing the Meeting, Bhupender Yadav, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change stated that 2021 is a very crucial year not only for the

BRICS but for the whole world as well, as we have **UN Biodiversity COP 15 in October 2021 and UNFCCC COP 26 in November 2021.**

- BRICS Countries can play a very significant role in addressing the contemporary global challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, air pollution, marine plastic litter, etc.
- Referring to the recent findings of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group 1 contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report “Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science”**, the report has given enough, may be the last signal, for taking concrete collective global actions against Global environmental and climate challenges.

New Delhi Statement on Environment:

- In the Meeting, the Environment Ministers adopted the **New Delhi Statement on Environment**, which is also aimed at furthering the spirit of Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus in Environment among the BRICS Nations.
- India stressed on the need for taking concrete collective global actions against global environment and climate challenge, guided by equity, national priorities and circumstances, and the principles of **“Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)”**.

Source: PIB

3. Meeting of Agriculture Ministers of BRICS countries 2021



Why in News

- Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar chaired the **11th meeting of Agriculture Ministers of BRICS countries.**

Key Points

- The **theme** of the meeting was **“BRICS Partnership for Strengthening Agro Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Security”**.

- Shri Tomar said that the BRICS countries are well-positioned to take a leading role in helping to achieve the objectives of the **2030 Sustainable Development Goals to eradicate hunger and poverty.**
- The Agriculture Minister highlighted the efforts made by India in preserving the agro-biodiversity by establishing and maintaining the National Gene banks for plants, animals, fish, insects and agriculturally important microorganisms at different respective Bureaus.
- India is actively promoting the diversification of its agri-food systems through countrywide programs such as pulses, oilseeds, horticultural crops, National Bamboo Mission and the recently launched National Palm Oil Mission.
- On the initiative and proposal of India, the United Nations has declared the **year 2023 as the International Year of Millets.**

BRICS Agriculture Research Platform (BARP):

- It has been created to promote cooperation in agricultural research and innovations and its implementation has been started.

Action Plan of 2021-24 for Agricultural Cooperation:

- The Action Plan of 2021-24 for Agricultural Cooperation of BRICS Countries was adopted in the Ministers' meeting.
- It provides for enhanced cooperation in the field of agriculture amongst BRICS nations and focuses on the themes of food security, welfare of farmers, conservation of agro biodiversity, resilience of food and agricultural production systems, promotion of digital agricultural solutions etc. which are integral to the sustainable development of agriculture.

Source: PIB

4. Exercise 'Malabar 2021' (August 26-29, 2021)



Why in News

- Navies of the 4 member nations of the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)** — **India, the United States, Japan, and Australia** participated in

the ‘**Malabar Exercise 2021**’, which began off the coast of **Guam in the Pacific Ocean**.

- This year marks the **25th edition of Exercise Malabar, hosted by US Navy**.
- **Navies are:** Indian Navy (IN), US Navy (USN), Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).

Key Points

About Exercise Malabar:

- Malabar is a multilateral war-gaming naval exercise that was started in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between the navies of India and the United States.
- Japan and Australia first participated in 2007, and since 2014, India, the US and Japan have participated in the exercise every year.
- The 2020 edition witnessed participation of the Royal Australian Navy.

Malabar 2020:

- Last year, the exercise was conducted in two phases — the first off the coast of Vishakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal, and then in the Arabian Sea.

Other Exercises with Quad Countries:

- India has several kinds of bilateral and multilateral military exercises with all these nations. Last year, the Indian Navy conducted a number of Passage Exercises (PASSEX) with the navies of Japan, Australia, and the US.
- **India-US: Yudha Abhyas (Army), Vajra Prahar (Military), India-Japan: JIMEX (Naval exercise), SHINYUU Maitri (Air force exercise), and Dharma Guardian (Military exercise), India-Australia: AUSINDEX (Maritime), AUSTRALIA HIND**

Source: Indian Express

5. Hackathon “MANTHAN 2021”



Why in News

- Hackathon “MANTHAN 2021” is organized by the **Bureau of Police Research and Development** in coordination with the **Innovation Cell of the**

Ministry of Education and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

Key Points

About Hackathon “MANTHAN 2021”:

- It is a unique national initiative to identify innovative concepts and technology solutions for addressing the security challenges of the 21st century faced by intelligence agencies.
- Selected youths from education institutions across the country and registered start-ups will participate to offer strong, safe and effective technology solutions using their technical expertise and innovative skills.
- Participants are expected to develop digital solutions using new technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Deep Learning, Augmented reality, Machine Learning, etc. for ever-changing security related challenges.

Other Hackathons:

- Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020
- Virtual Agri-Hackathon 2020
- CCTNS Hackathon & Cyber Challenge
- 5G Hackathon
- India - Australia Circular Economy Hackathon

Source: PIB

6. August 29, National Sports Day



Why in News

- The National Sports Day in India is celebrated on August 29.

Key Points

- National Sports Day is celebrated since 2012 to commemorate the birth anniversary of hockey legend Dhyani Chand, who won gold medals in Olympics for India in 1928, 1932 and 1936.

Fit India Mobile Application:

- The **Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur** launched the **Fit India Mobile Application** to celebrate the second anniversary of **Fit India Movement** and as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The **Fit India Movement** was launched on 29th August 2019 by the **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** with the vision of making India a Fit and Healthy Nation.

Source: PIB

7. August 29, International Day against Nuclear Tests



Why in News

- The International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed on August 29.

Key Points

- On 2 December 2009, the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly declared 29 August the International Day against Nuclear Tests.
- The resolution was initiated by Kazakhstan together with several sponsors and cosponsors to commemorate the closure of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site on August 29, 1991.
- The resolution in particular calls for increasing awareness "about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world".

Source: un.org