

G20

❖ Context

➤ Recently, **India officially took over G20 presidency** for 2023 after Bali summit came to an end.

Key Takeaways from the G20 Summit in Bali

- **Condemed Russian Aggressions**
 - G20 leaders adopted a declaration deploring Russia's aggression in Ukraine **"in the strongest terms"** and demanded its unconditional withdrawal.
- **USA- China Ties**
 - The summit was preceded by a bilateral meeting between USA and Chinese president.
 - The meeting laid out major differences, especially over Taiwan, trade restrictions and technology transfers, the two agreed to keep communications open and avoid confrontation.
- **Focus on Global Economy**
 - The G20 economies agreed in their declaration to pace interest rate rises carefully to avoid spillovers.
 - They warned of **"increased volatility"** in currency moves, a sea change from last year's focus on mending the scars of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Food Security**
 - The leaders promised to take coordinated action to address food security challenges and applauded the Black Sea grains initiative
- **Climate Change**
 - G20 leaders agreed to pursue efforts to limit the global temperature increase to **1.5 degrees Celsius**.
 - They confirmed that they stand by the temperature goal from the 2015 **Paris Agreement on climate change**.

G20

- **About**
 - The G20 is a **strategic multilateral platform** connecting the world's major developed and emerging economies.
 - It **started in 1999** as a meeting for the finance minister and central bank governors.
 - Together, the G20 members represent more than **80 percent of world GDP, 75 percent of international trade** and **60 percent of the world population**.
- **Meetings**
 - The G20 has evolved into a **yearly summit involving the Head of State and Government**.
 - The group has **no permanent staff of its own**, so every year in December, a G20 country from a rotating region takes on the presidency.
- **Membership**
 - It comprises **19 countries** and the **European Union (EU)**.
 - Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.



PM's gifts for G20 leaders

❖ Context

➤ At the G20 summit, Indian Prime Minister gifted heads of states curated craft pieces from Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.



Kangra Pahari painting

- Gifted to the US President.
- The **miniature painting** is based on the theme of love as a means of devotion.
- Their genesis is traced to **Haripur-Guler** under the patronage of **Raja Govardhan Chand (1744-1773)** who gave asylum to refugee artists trained in the Mughal Style of painting.

Pithora Paintings



Patan Patola scarf

- Gifted to the Italian PM.
- A colourful dupatta woven in Patan, Gujarat was encased in a decorative **sadeli box**, a wooden craft native to Surat.
- The **double ikat scarf** can be worn on both sides. The **motifs weaved on the scarf were inspired from the Rani Ki Vav**, a stepwell in Patan, built in the 11th century AD.
- The ancient art also dates back to the 11th century AD.





- Presented to the Australian PM.

- Pithora paintings, **ritualistic tribal folk art** by the **Rathwa artisans from Chhota Udaipur in Gujarat**, are based on the **cave paintings** that tribal people used to make, reflecting their social, cultural and mythological life and beliefs.

- These paintings **resemble the aboriginal dot paintings of the indigenous communities of Australia.**

Kinnauri Shawl



- Presented to the President of Indonesia.

- The design on this specific piece shows influences from

Central Asia and Tibet.

- He was also presented with a silver bowl from Surat.



- It is woven in pure silk by the **Salvi family** in Patan, the last surviving family into Patola weaving.

Agate Bowls



- Presented to the leaders of France, Germany and Singapore.

- The semi-precious stone is found in underground mines of **Rajpipla and Ratanpur** in riverbeds of Gujarat, and extracted to produce a variety of ornamental objects.

Mata Ni Pachedi

- Gifted to the UK PM.
- It means 'behind the mother goddess'.
- Also called the **Kalamkari of Gujarat.**
- Kalam** is made out of bamboo.
- It is a **sacred handmade textile** piece made by **nomadic Vaghari** communities in Gujarat.



Kanal Brass set

- Gifted to the Spanish PM.
- It is from **Mandi & Kullu, HP.**
- These **traditional musical instruments** are now increasingly used as décor objects.



Carbon border tax & Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

❖ Context

➤ A group of countries including India has opposed the carbon border taxes policy at the COP27.

Key highlights

➤ The **BASIC group**, comprising India, China, Brazil and South Africa, said it could result in market distortion.

➤ Countries call for a united solidarity response by developing countries to any unfair shifting of responsibilities from developed to developing countries.

Carbon leakage

- Some developed nations, in efforts to cut emissions, impose high costs on carbon-intensive businesses in their own countries.
- Businesses can potentially sidestep this simply by **moving production to a country with less stringent rules**, a practice called carbon leakage.

Carbon border tax

- It involves **imposing an import duty on a product manufactured in a country with more lax climate rules** than the one buying it.
- It is a plan from the European Union (EU), proposed for the first time in **2021**, to **tax carbon-intensive products**, such as **iron and steel, cement, fertiliser, aluminium and electricity generation, from 2026.**
- It will equalise the price of carbon between domestic products and imports and prevent carbon leakage.
- Apart from the EU, California in the US applies charges to some imports of electricity. Canada and Japan are also planning similar measures.

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

- EU importers will buy **carbon certificates** corresponding to the carbon price that would have been paid, had the goods been produced under the EU's carbon pricing rules.
- Conversely, once a non-EU producer can show that they have already paid a price for the carbon used in the production of the imported goods in a third country, the corresponding cost can be fully deducted for the EU importer.

News in Between the Lines

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Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)



❖ Context

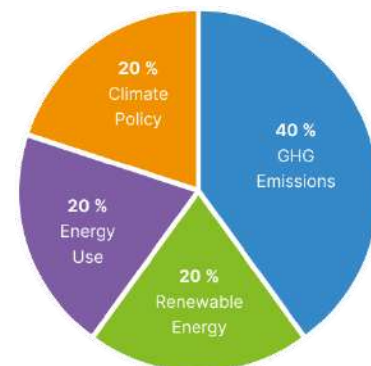
➤ India rose two spots to rank eighth out of 63 countries in the Climate Change Performance Index 2023 (CCPI).

❖ Key Highlights

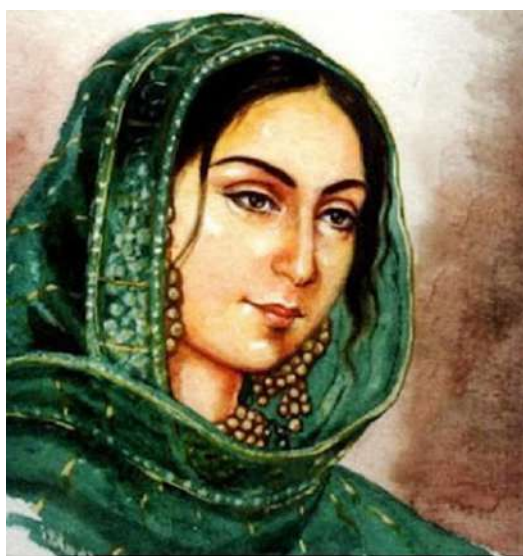
- In **2022 and 2021**, India stood at the **10th spot** on the CCPI, while in 2020, it ranked ninth.
- In the overall standings, **no country ranked first, second or third** on the index.
- **Denmark, with a score of 79.61, ranked fourth**, followed by Sweden with 73.28 points. India scored 67.35 points.
- **India's ranking in categories:** In GHGs, it ranked 9, Renewable Energy (24), and Energy Use (9), and on Climate Policy (8).
- The **worst performers** in the overall ranking are Iran, Saudi Arabia and Kazakhstan.

❖ About CCPI

- It was **published by** three environmental non-governmental organizations viz. **Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute and the Climate Action Network (CAN) International.**
- The CCPI **evaluates 59 countries and the European Union**, which together generate over 92 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- Using standardized criteria, the CCPI looks at **four categories, with 14 indicators:**
 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Renewable Energy, Energy Use, and Climate Policy.
- It tracks the implementation of the Paris Agreement by various countries.



Uda Devi



❖ Context

➤ Recently, events to commemorate the martyrdom of Uda Devi were held at various places in Uttar Pradesh, including Sikandar Bagh in Lucknow.

❖ About Uda Devi

- She **Born in Ujirao, Lucknow.**
- She was part of the royal guard of **Begum Hazrat Mahal of Awadh.**
- Her husband, Makka Pasi, worked as a foot soldier in the army of Awadh's Nawab, Wajid Ali Shah.
- She is **remembered for her stories of valour** and for her skill as a leader who **managed to mobilise people – specially Dalit women –** to take up arms against the British.
- Amid the **revolt of 1857**, on June 10, at Chinhat near Ismailganj, a battle was fought between the army of Lucknow and the British troops led by Henry Lawrence.
- It is said that **Uda Devi killed at least three dozen British soldiers** from atop a tree before she could be spotted.

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Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle (Batagur Kachuga)



❖ Context

- Recently, **India put forward a proposal** to better protect a species of freshwater reptile called the **red-crowned roofed turtle (Batagur kachuga)** under the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)**.

❖ Key Highlights

- This species is at a **high risk of extinction**.
- The 19th Conference of the Parties to CITES began November 14 in Panama and will go on Till November 25, 2022.

❖ Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle

➤ Threats

- Harvested for meat and shells, drowned in fishing nets, water pollution, hydro-electric schemes and habitat loss.

➤ Distribution and Habitat

- This turtle is found in central Nepal, northeastern India, Bangladesh and probably Burma.
- This turtle is native to India and Bangladesh.
- It is a species of freshwater.

➤ Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List**- Critically Endangered.
- **CITES**- Appendix II.

Vikram-Suborbital (VKS) Rocket



❖ Context

- Recently, Union Minister of state for Science and Technology said that Indian Space Research Organization (**ISRO**) will make history on Friday (November 18) when **it launches its first-ever private rocket**.

❖ Key Highlights

- Non-government entity/startup, **Skyroot Aerospace Pvt Ltd (SAPL)** has developed the **VKS rocket**.
- Skyroot was the **first startup to sign a Memorandum of Understanding** with ISRO for launching its rockets.
- It is a single stage spin stabilized solid propellant rocket with a **mass of approx. 550 kilograms**.
- The rocket goes to the max altitude of 101 kilometers and splashes into the sea and the overall duration of launch is 300 seconds only.
- It will also be the maiden mission of Skyroot Aerospace, named '**Prarambh**'.
- It will carry a total of three payloads in space, including one from the foreign customers."

Moscow format consultations on Afghanistan





❖ Context

- India joined the **fourth meeting of the 'Moscow format consultations on Afghanistan'** that was held in the Russian capital.

❖ Key highlights

- It is one of the several dialogue platforms on issues related to Afghanistan.
- The issues include the current humanitarian situation and the ongoing efforts of various stakeholders to provide assistance, intra-Afghan talks, formation of an inclusive and representative government, efforts to counter threats of terrorism and ensuring regional security.
- It was **established in 2017**, before the Taliban takeover of Kabul, as an international mechanism for Afghanistan, **initially formed by six parties involving Russia, Afghanistan, India, Iran, China and Pakistan**.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Currently, it consists of Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and India. ➤ Guests from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates were invited to take part in the discussion. ➤ India, Russia and Iran are expected to form a separate group within the format to discuss specific concerns regarding the security situation in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.
<p style="text-align: center;">Young Professionals Exchange</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The UK announced a new “partnership” with India at the G20 summit. ❖ Key highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The scheme will commence in early 2023 and be on a reciprocal basis. ➤ Under the U.K.-India Young Professionals Scheme, the U.K. will offer, annually, 3,000 degree-holding Indians in the 18–30-year age group places to work in the U.K. for up to two years. ➤ Indians comprise almost a quarter of all international students in the U.K. and Indian investment in the U.K. supports 95,000 jobs in the country.
<p style="text-align: center;">Article 279A</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Former West Bengal Finance Minister Council has said that the Good & Services Tax (GST) council has not met over the last four-and-a-half months, in violation of the Rule 6 of the Procedure & Conduct of Business Regulations. ❖ Key highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Procedure & Conduct of Business Regulations of the GST Council have been formulated in pursuance of Article 279A (8) of the Constitution. ➤ According to the Rule 6- “The Council shall meet at least once in every quarter of the financial year.” ➤ Article 279A deals with the constitution of GST council. ➤ According to 279A(7), one-half of the total number of Members of the Goods and Services Tax Council shall constitute the quorum at its meetings. ➤ As per 279(9), every decision of the GST Council shall be taken at a meeting, by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting, in accordance with the following principles, namely:— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The vote of the Central Government shall have a weightage of one-third of the total votes cast in that meeting. ■ The votes of all the State Governments taken together shall have a weightage of two-thirds of the total votes cast in that meeting.

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