



COP 27 : A Field Guide to Climate Jargon

❖ **Context**

➤ Representatives from the world's nations meet in **Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt**, on Nov. 6-18 to flesh out the rules of a new global climate pact.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- **Conference of the Parties (COP) :**
 - The **COP** is the **supreme decision-making body** of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**).
 - It brings together the **197 nations and territories** - called Parties.
 - The COP has **met annually** since **1995**.
 - In these conferences, parties review progress made by members of the UNFCCC in achieving the ultimate objective of the convention.
 - At the COP summit, world leaders also work together on solutions to **combat climate change**.
- **COP 26 :**
 - It was held in **Glasgow, UK** last year.
 - The Glasgow Pact **marked the first time a U.N. climate agreement** mentioned the goal of reducing fossil fuel use.
 - The pact marked a breakthrough in efforts to resolve rules guiding the **international trade of carbon markets to offset emissions**.
- **Greenhouse Gases :** The **carbon dioxide (CO2)** is the main "greenhouse gas" responsible for warming the Earth's atmosphere.
 - It is emitted by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, diesel, gasoline or petrol, kerosene and natural gas.
 - **Methane** is also much more potent than CO2 but much shorter-lived in the atmosphere.
 - It is produced by cows and waste dumps.

- **Paris Agreement :**
 - Successor to the **Kyoto Protocol**.
 - Agreed in December **2015** (Expired in 2020).
 - It **legally bound its signatories** collectively to limit greenhouse gas emissions to keep the temperature rise "**well below**" **2.0C** this century.
 - But the countries also promised to "pursue efforts" to keep the rise below 1.5C (2.7F), which scientists say would help to avert some of the most catastrophic effects.
- **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) :**
 - NDCs are the **pledges that each country makes to reduce its emissions** and adapt to climate change from 2020 onward.
 - Countries have to **update** and expand their NDCs **every five years**.
- **Just Transition :** The term used to describe a shift to a **low-carbon economy**.
- **Climate Finance :** **Richer countries** agreed in 2009 to contribute \$100 billion together each year by 2020 to help poorer countries adapt their economies and lessen the impact climatic issues.
 - In 2015 they agreed to extend this goal through to 2025, but the target has yet to be met.
- **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) :**
 - It was **enshrined in the Kyoto accord**.
 - It says that **developed countries**, which produced more emissions in the past as they built their economies, **should take the lead in fighting climate change**.

A New Technique of Manufacturing LCD

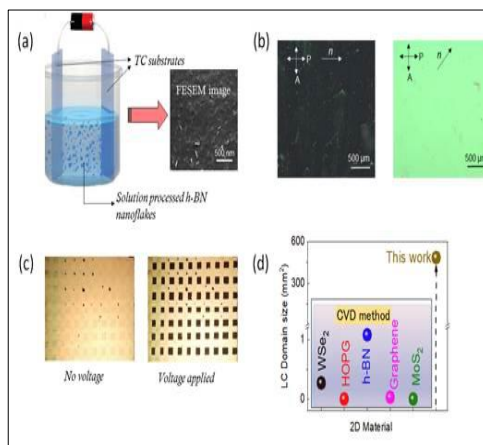
❖ **Context**

➤ Recently, a team of scientists from the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bengaluru, developed a **new easier technique of manufacturing liquid crystal displays**.



❖ **Key Highlights**

- An **essential requirement** of **liquid crystal devices (LCDs)** is the **unidirectional planar alignment** of the constituent **liquid crystals (LC)** over large areas.
- **Current Method :** The conventional **polymer rubbing method** yields quality LC alignment.
 - But it possesses unavoidable & undesirable drawbacks such as :
 - Production of electrostatic charges & dust particles that interfere with display operation.
 - It causes damage to the electronic components of the display.



- **New Technique :** The team of scientists conceptualized and implemented a **novel way of employing 2D materials** to overcome the drawbacks of current methods.
 - Using **h-BN nanoflakes** as the specific material they employed a procedure called solution-processed deposition technique and found it to be effective in getting the LC alignment over a much larger area.
 - They also found the resultant crystals to be quite robust with no evidence of decay in LC orientation over several months.
- **Significance :** It can reduce the cost of the devices.

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BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

❖ Context

- India had abstained on Russia-sponsored draft resolution at UNSC for probe on Ukraine's alleged bio weapons

❖ About the convention

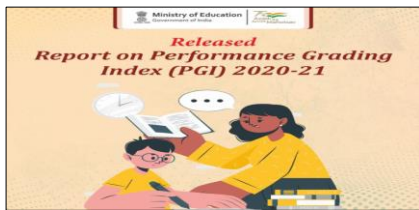
- It is formally known as "The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction".
- It was negotiated by the **Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland**.
- It entered into force on **26 March 1975**.
- It supplements the **1925 Geneva Protocol**, which had prohibited only the use of biological weapons.
- It was the **first multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction (WMD)**.

- The BWC bans:
 - The development, stockpiling, acquisition, retention, and production of:
 - Biological agents and toxins "of types and in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes;"
 - Weapons, equipment, and delivery vehicles "designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict."
 - The transfer of or assistance with acquiring the agents, toxins, weapons, equipment, and delivery vehicles.
- It also allows **states-parties to lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council** if they believe other member states are violating the convention.

Performance Grade Index 2020-21

❖ Context

- The **Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education** released the Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States/UTs for 2020-21.

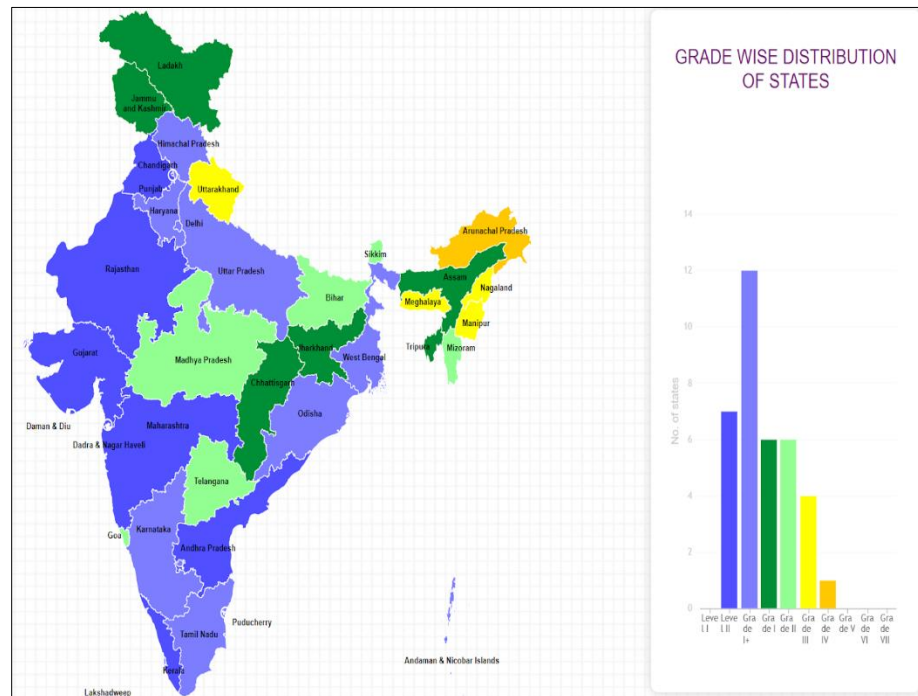


❖ About the Index

- It is a unique index for **evidence-based comprehensive analysis of school education systems** across State/UTs.
- The Indian Education System is one of the largest in the world with about **14.9 lakh schools, 95 lakh teachers, and nearly 26.5 crore students** from varied socio-economic backgrounds.
- So far, DoSE&L has released PGI reports for the year **2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20**.
- The PGI structure comprises **1000 points across 70 indicators** grouped into **2 categories viz., Outcomes, Governance Management (GM)**.
- These categories are further divided into 5 domains, viz., **Learning Outcomes (LO), Access (A), Infrastructure & Facilities (IF), Equity (E) & Governance Process (GP)**.
- PGI classifies the States/UTs into **ten grades** viz., highest achievable Grade is **Level 1** (State/UT scoring more than 950 points).
- The lowest grade is **Level 10** which is for scores below 551.

❖ Report's Highlights

- The maximum and minimum scores obtained by the states in 2020-21 are 928 (**Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab**) and 669 (**Arunachal Pradesh**), respectively.



New Tests for Claiming Incentives Under PLI, ACC & FAME II

Schemes

❖ Context

- The **Ministry of Heavy Industries** has come up with enhanced testing criteria for vehicles produced under the **production linked incentive (PLI) scheme** for automobiles along with those sold under the **FAME** scheme.

❖ Key Highlights

- To safeguard human safety, certain tests which are done internationally will be made mandatory from **1st April 2023** for claiming incentives/payments.



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- The new tests would ensure quality at three levels, **battery pack, battery management system and cell level.**
- They will also be applicable on batteries produced under the PLI for advanced chemistry cells (ACC).
- There would be six new tests for cells, including altitude simulation and temperature cycling.
- **Temperature cycling test** - It is the reaction of the lithium ion cell observed after the chamber temperature is raised and is kept at the high temperature.
- **Altitude simulation** - It is a test to observe that the batteries do not explode or catch fire when stored at a specified absolute pressure and a temperature.
- ❖ **About FAME scheme**
- Scheme for Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) was formulated in **2015** to promote adoption of electric/ hybrid vehicles (xEVs) in the country.
- The scheme is currently being run under **Phase II** for a period of **five years w.e.f. 01st April 2019**, with a total budgetary support of **Rs. 10,000 crores.**

- It is implemented through : **Demand incentives** -
 - Out of total budgetary support, about **86% of funds** has been allocated for Demand Incentive.
 - Under this, only buses (e-buses), four wheelers (e-4W) and three wheelers (e-3W) **used for public transport or registered for commercial purposes** are eligible.
 - **Two-wheelers (e-2W) vehicles**, for **individual purpose**, in addition to the public transport or commercial purpose are eligible.
 - **Uniform demand incentive** for all e-vehicles (except e-buses) is given at **Rs. 10,000/- per KWH**. It was revised for e-2W to **Rs. 15,000/- per KWH**.
 - For **e-buses**, demand incentive is given at **Rs. 20,000/- per KWH**.
 - Demand incentive is available to buyers/consumers in the form of **upfront-reduced purchase price** which is passed from OEM to dealers to buyers.
 - OEM claims the subsidy from MHI.
 - **For individuals, not more than one vehicle of particular categories is incentivised.**
- **Establishment of a network of charging stations.**

News in Between the Lines

Cheapest Production in India



❖ Context

- India has been ranked as the **nation with the cheapest manufacturing cost ahead of China and Vietnam**, according to the **US News and World Report**.

❖ Key Highlights

- Out of 85 nations, **India has bagged the 31st position** in the overall Best Countries ranking.
- **Switzerland** has topped the chart, followed by Germany, Canada, US and Sweden.
- The report evaluates 85 countries across 73 attributes.
- Attributes are grouped into 10 sub-categories, including adventure, agility, entrepreneurship, open for business, social purpose and quality of life.
- **Under the open for business sub-category, India has scored 100 per cent when it comes to cheap manufacturing costs.**

Hindu Heritage Month



❖ Context

- **Canada** has for the first time officially celebrated **November** as its national Hindu Heritage Month.

❖ Key Highlights

- The aim of the heritage month is to celebrate and acknowledge the significant contributions of the country's 8,30,000 Hindu community in different walks of life.
- **Canada also marks heritage month of other faiths** which includes **April** as Sikh Heritage Month, **May** as Canadian Jewish Heritage Month and **October** as Canadian Islamic History Month.

Joint Military Training-2022

❖ Context

- Recently, the **11th edition of the annual Joint Military Training (JMT)** between the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and the **Royal Singapore Air Force (RSAF)** commenced at Air Force Station, Kalaikunda.

❖ Key Highlights

- The two Air Forces have resumed this training after a gap of two years.
- This edition of JMT would be **conducted over a period of six weeks.**

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- The **RSAF is participating in JMT-2022 with F-16 aircraft**, while the IAF would field the **Su-30 MKI, Jaguar, MiG-29 and LCA Tejas aircraft**.
- **Significance** : It seeks to **provide the participating contingents** with an opportunity to share valuable operational knowledge, experiences & best practices, while strengthening the professional bonds between the two Air Forces.

India Infrastructure Project Development Fund (IIPDF) Scheme



- ❖ **Context**
 - Recently, The **Ministry of Finance** has notified the IIPDF Scheme for **Financial Support for Project Development Expenses of PPP Projects**.
- ❖ **Key Highlights**
 - It is a **Central Sector Scheme**.
 - It will **aid development of quality PPP projects** by providing necessary funding support to the project sponsoring authorities.
 - It will Provide assistance **both in the Central and State Governments**, for **creating a shelf of bankable viable PPP projects** for achieving the vision of modern infrastructure for the country.
 - Funding under IIPDF Scheme is in addition to the already operational Scheme for Financial Support to PPPs in Infrastructure (VGF Scheme).

Wangala Festival



- ❖ **Context**
 - The 46th edition of the '**100-Drums Wangala Festival 2022**' is all set to begin at Wangala A.dam Chibragre near Tura (**Meghalaya**) from November 10.
- ❖ **Key Highlights**
 - The three-day post-harvest festival is being organised by the **Hundred Drums Wangala Festival Committee**.
 - Over ten dancing contingents from across the **Garo Hills** take part in the festival.
 - **Held in honour of Saljong – the Sun god**, the celebration of the Wangala Festival marks the end of a period of toil.
 - It also signifies the **onset of winter**.
 - It is actually a **thanksgiving ceremony** observed by the indigenous Garo tribes in honour of the deity for a bountiful and bumper harvest after the conclusion of the sowing seasons.

Bonalu Festival



- ❖ **Context**
 - Recently a Congress leader joined the Budaga Jangalu community of Telangana and whipped himself as part of the 'Potharajulu' tradition.
 - The custom is part of the state's acclaimed Bonalu festival.

SHOW OF POMP AND COLOUR

DURING BONALU, DRUM BEATS & TELUGU FOLK SONGS REVERBERATE FROM LANES AND BYLANES IN THE CITY. IT IS CELEBRATED DURING THE HINDU MONTH OF ASHADHAM

ORIGIN OF BONALU

➤ The origin of this festival is linked with the cholera disease outbreak in the year 1813. The disease allegedly took away lives of thousands of people. Just before this, a military battalion from Hyderabad was deployed to Ujjain. When this Hyderabad military battalion got to know about the epidemic in the twin cities, they prayed to the goddess at Mahankal Temple in Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh.

According to the legend, the idol was installed in the city after people were cured from the disease when the military prayed to the goddess in Ujjain which was followed by offering Bonalu to her.

➤ Since then, this became a tradition that is still being followed in Telangana.

RITUALS

➤ Celebrations are held at temple in Golconda fort, Balkampet Yellamma temple, Ujjaini Mahankali temple, at Pochamma and Katta Maisamma temple of Chilkalguda and the Matheswari Temple of Lal Dar aza in Old City.

- Bonalu is a traditional Hindu festival centered on the Goddess **Mahakali from Telangana**. This festival is celebrated annually in the twin cities of **Hyderabad and Secunderabad**, as well as in other parts of the state.
- The festival is also considered a thanksgiving to the Goddess for fulfillment of vows.
- The word Bonam is a contraction of the word Bhojanam, a Sanskrit loanword which means a meal or a feast in Telugu.
- Women prepare rice cooked with milk and jaggery in a new brass or earthen pot adorned with neem leaves, turmeric, vermilion and a lit lamp on top of the pot.
- Women carry the pots on their heads and make an offering of the Bonam along with turmeric-vermilion, bangles & sari to the Mother Goddess across the temples

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