

Climate Change Performance Index

❖ **Context**

➤ The **Climate Change Performance Index 2023** report was released recently and **India secured 8th position** in the index which is 2 positions up from the last edition.

Key Highlights

- With **India (8th)**, the United Kingdom (11th), and Germany (16th), only three G20 countries are among the high performers in CCPI 2023.
- **India's rank is the best amongst the G 20 countries.**
- Since no country was strong enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating, thus the **top three places i.e. 1-3 are vacant.**
- The rating of India in various components of CCPI is as follows-

Component	Rating
GHG Emissions	High
Renewable Energy	Medium
Energy Use	High
Climate Policy	Medium

Key Measures That Yielded Results:

- The government has updated its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) submitted to UNFCCC under the Paris Agreement.
 - These include targets to reduce the Emissions intensity of its **GDP by 45 percent by 2030, from 2005 level.**
 - To achieve about **50 percent** cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.
 - Create an **additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes** of CO2 equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
- India has also **submitted its Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy** to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), during the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27).
- Government has also launched a flagship programme **Perform, Achieve and Trade** with an aim to reduce Specific Energy Consumption (SEC).
- Government has declared the trajectory for **Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO)** up to the year 2030 and is promoting Electric Vehicles and creation of charging infrastructure in the country.

Key Takeaways From the COP-15 Biodiversity Summit

❖ **Context**

➤ Recently, the **15th Conference of Parties (COP15)** to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) culminated with a global deal to protect the ecosystems.

Key Highlights of the Summit

- **Conservation, Protection, And Restoration**
 - Delegates committed to protecting **30% of land and 30% of coastal and marine areas by 2030**, fulfilling the deal's highest-profile goal, known as **30-by-30.**
 - Indigenous and traditional territories will also count toward this goal, as many countries and campaigners pushed for during the talks.
 - The deal also aspires to **restore 30% of degraded lands and waters** throughout the decade, up from an earlier aim of 20%.
 - The world will strive to **prevent destroying intact landscapes** and areas with a lot of species, bringing those losses "close to zero by 2030".
- **Funding**
 - Signatories aim to ensure \$200 billion per year is channelled to conservation initiatives, from public and private sources.
 - Wealthier countries should contribute at least \$20 billion of this every year by 2025, and at least \$30 billion a year by 2030.
- **Big Companies Report Impacts On Biodiversity**
 - Companies **should analyse and report** how their operations affect and are affected by biodiversity issues.

• **Harmful Subsidies**

- Countries committed to **identify subsidies that deplete biodiversity by 2025**, and then eliminate, phase out or reform them.
- They agreed to slash those incentives by at least **\$500 billion a year by 2030**, and increase incentives that are positive for conservation.

• **Pollution and Pesticides**

- One of the deal's more controversial targets sought to **reduce the use of pesticides by up to two-thirds.**
- But the final language to emerge focuses on the risks associated with pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals instead, pledging to **reduce those threats by "at least half"**, and instead focusing on other forms of pest management.

• **Monitoring and Reporting Progress**

- All the agreed aims will be **supported by processes to monitor progress in the future.**
- National action plans will be set and reviewed, following a similar format used for greenhouse gas emissions under U.N.-led efforts to curb climate change.

• **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

- COP15 to the UNCBD adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
- The framework has **23 targets that the world needs to achieve by 2030.**

- The parties agreed to large companies and financial institutions being subject to “requirements” to make disclosures regarding their operations, supply chains and portfolios.

- The **Global Environment Facility** has been requested to establish a Special Trust Fund
 - It will support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (“GBF Fund”).

News in Between the Lines

Ashtadhyayi



❖ Context

- Recently, **Cambridge scholar Dr. Rishi Rajpopat** in his Ph.D. thesis published on December 15, claims to have **solved Sanskrit’s biggest puzzle—a grammar problem found in the ‘Ashtadhyayi’**.
- Experts are calling the discovery revolutionary, as it **may allow Panini’s grammar to be taught to computers for the first time**.

❖ Ashtadhyayi

- ‘Ashtadhyayi’, an ancient text written by the scholar Panini towards the end of the 4th century BC.
- The ‘Ashtadhyayi’ is a **linguistics text** that set the standard for how Sanskrit was meant to be written and spoken.
- It delves deep into the language’s phonetics, syntax and grammar.
- It also **offers a ‘language machine’**, where you can feed in the root and suffix of any Sanskrit word, and get grammatically correct words and sentences in return.
- To ensure this ‘machine’ was accurate, **Panini wrote a set of 4,000 rules dictating its logic**.

❖ Panini

- Panini probably **lived in the 4th century BC**, the age of the conquests of Alexander and the founding of the Mauryan Empire.
- He has also been dated to the 6th century BC, the age of the Buddha and Mahavira.
- He likely **lived in Salatura (Gandhara)**, which today would lie in north-west Pakistan.
- He was probably **associated with the great university at Takshasila**.
 - Takshasila also produced **Kautilya** and **Charaka**, the ancient Indian masters of statecraft and medicine respectively.

Operation Vijay



❖ Context

- Recently, the President of India tweeted her greetings to the nation on December 19, marking **Goa Liberation Day**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The day is **celebrated annually to mark the success of ‘Operation Vijay’** undertaken by the Indian armed forces to defeat Portuguese colonial forces and liberate Goa in 1961.
- The **Portuguese colonial presence in Goa began in 1510**, when Afonso de Albuquerque defeated the ruling Bijapur king.
- Goa was Portugal’s most prized possession in India and the biggest territory in Estado da Índia Portuguesa or the Portuguese empire in India.
- Over time, the Portuguese lost most of the territories in the Estado but retained Goa until well after India itself had thrown off the yoke of the British Raj.

❖ Operation Vijay

- The Indian government declared that Goa should join India “either with full peace or with full use of force”.
- **December 18 and 19, 1961** saw a full-fledged military operation termed ‘Operation Vijay’.
- It was carried out with little resistance and an instrument of surrender was signed, leading to **Goa’s annexation by India**.

Raktsey Karpo Apricot



❖ Context



- Recently, **Ladakh got its first ever Geographical Indication (GI) Tag** to its Raktsey Karpo Apricot.
- This highly sought-after GI tag accreditation is granted for 20 years.

❖ Key Highlights

- Apricot is the **major fruit of Ladakh** with large-scale cultivation in both **Leh and Kargil Districts** among the nine fruits grown in Ladakh.
- Apricot is also being **promoted under One District One Product for Kargil**.

Face to Face Centres



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Raktsey Karpo Apricot is one of the nine items recently registered in the GI tag lists. ➤ Although Ladakh grows more than thirty types of Apricots, the Raktsey Karpo variety is unique to the region. ➤ This Ladakh exclusive variety is matchless in sweetness and colorful with white Kernel.
<p>Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) & Kakori Robbery Incident</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prominent revolutionaries of the Indian independence movement were hanged on December 17 (Rajendranath Lahiri) and December 19 (Ashfaqullah Khan, Ram Prasad Bismil, Thakur Roshan Singh) in 1927, two years after the Kakori Train Robbery. ❖ Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The HRA was thus founded by a group of young men who were disillusioned by Gandhi's tactics and what they felt was zealous preaching of "non-violence." ➤ Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqulla Khan, both of whom had a flair for poetry, were among the group's founders. ➤ Others included Sachindra Nath Bakshi and trade unionist Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee. ➤ Figures such as Chandra Shekhar Azad and Bhagat Singh would also join the HRA. ➤ Their manifesto released on January 1, 1925, was titled Krantikari (Revolutionary). ➤ Their envisioned republic would be based on universal suffrage and socialist principles, importantly, the "abolition of all systems which make the exploitation of man by man possible." ❖ Kakori Robbery Incident <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The train robbery at Kakori was the HRA's first major action. ▪ Members of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) had looted a train transporting money to the British treasury. ▪ Their objective was both to fund the HRA and garner public attention for their work and mission. ▪ Out of the forty men arrested by the British, four were handed death sentences, while others received lengthy prison terms. ▪ The only major leader of HRA at this time who evaded arrest was Chandrashekhar Azad.
<p>Net direct tax revenue</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ India's net direct tax collections in 2022-23 surpassed the ₹11-lakh crore mark by December 17, reflecting a 19.81% uptick over last year's, the Central Board of Direct Taxes informed. ❖ Key Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The net direct tax collection of ₹11, 35,754 crore includes corporation tax and personal income tax, including securities transaction tax. ➤ Prior to effecting refunds, the gross direct tax for this year has risen 25.9% at ₹13.63 lakh crore compared to ₹10.83 lakh crore in the corresponding period of 2021-22. ➤ This included advance tax collections crore, tax deducted at source and self-assessment tax. ➤ Net direct tax collections had registered a 24.3% growth by November 30 to reach ₹8.77 lakh crore, and while the growth rate has slowed since then. ❖ Formula Of Net Direct Tax- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Net of Taxes = Gross Amount – Amount of Taxes ○ A direct tax is a tax that a person or organization pays directly to the entity that imposed it. Examples include income tax, real property tax, personal property tax, and taxes on assets, all of which are paid by an individual taxpayer directly to the government.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EU member States and parliamentarians announced an agreement for a major reform to the bloc's carbon market. ❖ Key Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The deal aims to accelerate emissions cuts, phase out free allowances to industries and targets fuel emissions from the building and road transport sectors. ➤ The EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) allows electricity producers and industries with high energy demands such as steel and cement to purchase "free allowances" to cover carbon emissions under a "polluter pays" principle.

EU strikes deal to reform bloc's carbon market



➤ The deal means emissions in the ETS sectors are to **be cut by 62% by 2030 based on 2005 levels, up from a previous goal of 43%**. Concerned industries must cut their emissions by that amount.

❖ What is the "Polluter Pays" Principle?

➤ The 'polluter pays' principle is the commonly accepted practice that **those who produce pollution should bear the costs of managing it to prevent damage to human health or the environment.**

➤ The polluter pays principle is part of a set of broader principles to guide sustainable development worldwide (**formally known as the 1992 Rio Declaration**).

❖ What Are Carbon Markets?

➤ Carbon markets are trading systems in which carbon credits are sold and bought.

➤ One tradable carbon credit equals one tonne of carbon dioxide or the equivalent amount of a different greenhouse gas reduced, sequestered or avoided.

Argentina wins FIFA World Cup Trophy 2022.



❖ Context

➤ Argentina came up trumps in a battle for the ages to lay their hands on the FIFA World Cup Trophy.

❖ Key Highlights

➤ Qatar and FIFA unveiled La'eeb as the Official Mascot for this year's FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. La'eeb is an **Arabic word meaning super-skilled player.**

➤ The **official ball for the World Cup in Qatar is the Adidas Al Rihla.** When translated into English, **Al Rihla means 'The Journey'** –

➤ The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 slogan was **"Now is All"**

➤ The FIFA World cup Qatar 2022 was the **first tournament to witness the participation of female referees.**

➤ **Lionel Messi** wins his second **Golden Ball for best player.**

➤ **Argentina's Martinez** rewarded with the **Golden Glove.**

➤ French forward **Kylian Mbappe**, who scored eight goals, and scored hat trick in the finals, was awarded the **Golden Boot** for being the top scorer in the World Cup.

➤ Argentina's **Enzo Fernandez** took the **Young Player award** for best under-21 player of the tournament.

Good Governance



❖ Context

➤ Union Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions inaugurated '**Prashasan Gaon ki Ore**' campaign under Good Governance Week 2022 in New Delhi.

❖ Key Highlights

➤ The Good Governance Week portal, www.pgportal.gov.in will also be launched.

➤ **In the 5 days campaign**, over 300 New Services identified by District Collectors across the country will be added for Online Service Delivery.

➤ The **Nationwide campaign for Redressal of Public Grievances and Improving Service Delivery** will be held in all Districts, States and Union Territories of the country.

➤ During the Preparatory Phase of the Good Governance Week 2022 held from 10th to 18th of this month.

➤ District Collectors have also identified more than 81 lakh applications for Service Delivery to be disposed of, along with over 19 lakh Public Grievances to be redressed in State Grievance Portals.

❖ What is Good Governance?

➤ According to the **United Nations**, Good Governance is measured by the **eight factors** of Participation, Rule of Law, Transparency, Responsiveness, Consensus Oriented, Equity and Inclusiveness, Effectiveness and Efficiency, and Accountability.

