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Science Reporter
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विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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INDIAN EXPRESS

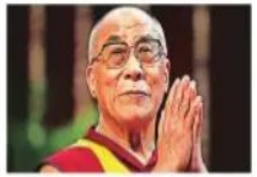
Page 10

BHARAT RATNA AWARD

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Awards and Personality)

All-party MP group to seek Bharat Ratna for Dalai Lama

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19



Group wants the Dalai Lama to address joint House session, Tibet policy. *File*

THE ALL-PARTY Indian Parliamentary Forum for Tibet has decided to urge the government to confer the Bharat Ratna on the Dalai Lama and sought a joint session of Parliament to be addressed by him. It has also proposed the adoption of a policy on the lines of the United States' Tibetan Policy and Support Act.

The forum, which has more than 20 MPs including from the BJP, has decided to urge all MPs to take special care to address and resolve the issues of Tibetans living in different parts of the country, in consultation with the local authorities.

Following its revival last year, the forum had held its first meeting and some of its MPs had attended a dinner hosted by the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile last December. In an unusual move, the Chinese Embassy in Delhi had written to them, expressing concern and asking them to "refrain from providing support to the Tibetan independent forces".

Asked about this, Sujeet Kumar, BJD MP in Rajya Sabha who is the convenor of the forum, stating that only the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people have the right to decide on the matter.

According to the minutes of the meeting, senior BJP leader and former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi proposed a Bill on the lines of the US Tibetan Policy and Support Act. He also suggested that the Dalai Lama should be invited to address a joint session of Parliament. The forum will request Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar to invite the Dalai Lama to address the MPs at Central Hall.

Another BJP MP, Tapir Gao from Arunachal Pradesh, proposed "a big rally by the forum members in support of Tibet which will create awareness and attention on the Tibet issue".

Among the other BJP MPs present at the meeting were Rajendra Agrawal, Ashok Bajpai, Lehar Singh Siroya and Vinay Dinu Tendulkar.

Sikkim Democratic Front's Rajya Sabha MP Hishey Lachungpa proposed a joint petition by the MPs seeking the Bharat Ratna for Dalai Lama. Accordingly, the forum has decided to prepare a joint petition in this regard.

The members of the forum Embassy has no locus standi to oppose, because we are MPs in a democratic country. We have every right to pass resolutions and the Chinese Embassy does not have to tell us what to do."

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, he said: "If we pass a resolution seeking Tibet to be an independent country, it would have been a bit too much, because India has a one-China policy. What we are asking for is to address the issues concerning the Tibetans living here. We are asking for protection of the ecology (of Tibet) because it's important for downstream India."

At a meeting of the forum earlier this month, Kumar expressed his objection to "the intervention of the Chinese Communist regime in the reincarnation of His the Tibetan Democracy Day on September 2, and Tibetan Parliament session from September 7-16.

Kumar has also prepared a Private Member's Bill seeking a Tibet Policy Act, which asks the government to appoint a special coordinator within the Ministry of External Affairs for Tibetan-related issues, to promote "substantive dialogue between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama and his representatives or democratically-elected leaders of the Tibetan community, among other things".

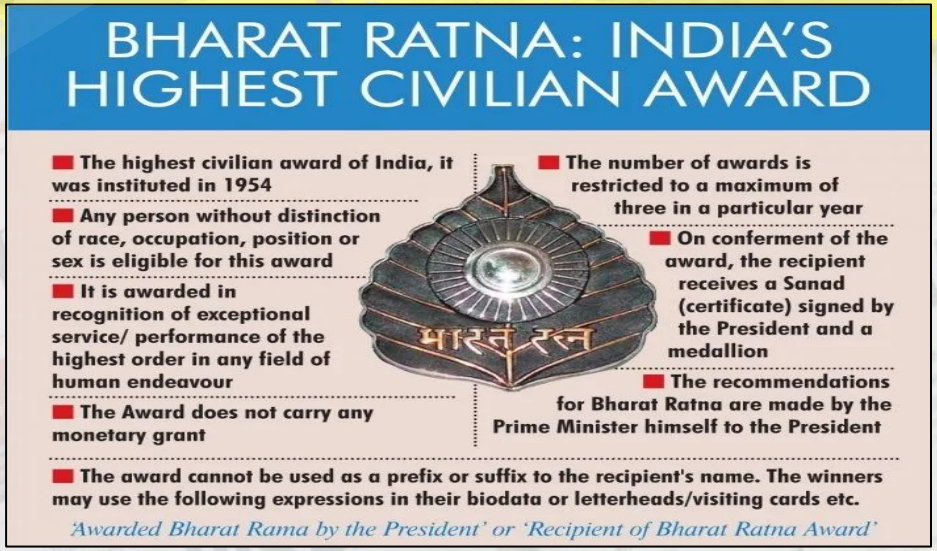
The special coordinator, the Bill says, should establish international diplomatic coalitions to oppose any move by the Chinese government to "select, educate, and venerate Tibetan Buddhist religious leaders in a manner inconsistent with Tibetan Buddhism in which the succession or identification of Tibetan Buddhist lamas, including the Dalai Lama, should occur without interference, in a manner consistent with Tibetan Buddhists' beliefs."

He has also asked the government to allocate a fund — not less than Rs 3 million — in the Union Budget to assist the democratic activities of Tibetan

Context: The all-party Indian Parliamentary Forum for Tibet has decided to urge the government to confer the Bharat Ratna on the Dalai Lama and sought a joint session of Parliament to be addressed by him.

Bharat Ratna award

- Instituted in the year 1954, Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of India.
- It is **awarded in recognition of exceptional service** towards any field of human endeavour, without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex.
- A **maximum of three Bharat Ratna awards** can be given each year upon the recommendations made by the Prime Minister to the President of India.
- On conferment of the award, the recipient receives a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion.
- **No monetary grant** is associated with the award.
- **Article 18(1) of the Indian Constitution**: The recipients cannot use Bharat Ratna as a prefix or suffix to their names.



INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 16

ONE BELT, ONE ROAD (OBOR) INITIATIVE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal Security)

China gives tacit nod to Pak's move to scrap CPEC Authority

KJM VARMA
BEIJING, AUGUST 19

CHINA ON Friday tacitly endorsed Pakistan's decision to scrap the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority amid reports of growing rift between the all-weather friends over the slow pace of the $60 billion project and Islamabad's failure to provide credible security to hundreds of Chinese personnel working on a host of projects.

China has taken a note of the relevant information, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing when asked about Pakistan government's decision to scrap the CPEC Authority, an official body constituted by the previous Imran Khan government.

"China understands the efforts of the Pakistani side dedicated to integrating resources, improving efficiency and adjusting institutions," Wang said without directly stating whether Beijing has given consent to Pakistan on the scrapping of the CPEC Authority. "We believe that future communications will be even closer and smoother and CPEC building will achieve the greatest results," Wang said.

Before the decision to scrap the CPEC Authority, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque met China's External Security Commissioner of the Foreign Ministry Cheng Guoping on August 16. While the details of the meeting were not disclosed, a Chinese Foreign Ministry press release said the two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on China-Pakistan relations, counter-terrorism and security cooperation between the two countries, among other things.

Pakistani daily *The Express Tribune* reported on August 18 that the Chinese authorities were irritated because of Pakistan's decision to put CPEC on the backburner over the past four years. PTI

Context: China tacitly endorsed Pakistan's decision to scrap the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor

- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is part of China's "One Belt, One Road (OBOR)" initiative.
- It is a bilateral project between Pakistan and China.
- It promotes connectivity across Pakistan with a network of highways, railways, and pipelines accompanied by energy, industrial and other infrastructure development projects.
- It links the Western part of China (Xinjiang) to the Gwadar Port in Balochistan, Pakistan via Khunjerab Pass in Northern Pakistan.
- **India's Stand**: It infringes Indian sovereignty because it runs through Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) and India has objected to part of the corridor.

One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative

- The **Belt and Road Initiative,** known in Chinese and formerly in English as **One Belt One Road or OBOR** for short, is a global infrastructure development strategy.
- It is **adopted by the Chinese government in 2013** to invest in nearly 70 countries and international organizations.
- The initiative was incorporated into the Constitution of China in 2017.
- The **Chinese government calls the initiative** "a bid to enhance regional connectivity and embrace a brighter future."
- The project has a t**arget completion date of 2049**, which will coincide with the centennial anniversary of the People's Republic of China (PRC)'s founding.

LIVEMINT Page 13

COTTON PROCUREMENT IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Agriculture)

Cotton procurement may remain slow, hitting textiles

Production estimates of cotton in India have been cut to 31.5 million bales for FY23

Ravi Dutta Misra
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NEW DELHI



The spot price of cotton is nearly back to record levels of ₹1 lakh a candy amid a drop in production in major cotton producing countries. AFP

Government procurement of cotton could remain slow even after the new crop season begins in October, as prices of the commodity are expected to remain high, a government official said, outlining a development that could benefit farmers but hit textile manufacturers.

The spot price of cotton has nearly surged back to record levels of ₹1 lakh a candy amid a drop in production in major cotton producing countries, including India.

Production estimates of cotton in India have already been cut to 31.5 million bales for FY23 as production in major cotton producing states such as Maharashtra and Karnataka is set to drop due to pests and heavy rains.

Cotton prices globally have been on the surge after the US, one of the largest cotton producing countries, cut its production forecast by 3 million bales to 12.6 million bales for FY23.

"The prices will certainly drop from the new season that starts from October. But in the entire next season, I don't expect any MSP operation (because prices will be elevated). Cotton prices are expected to be well above the MSP," the government official said.

"During covid-19 demand was low and that is why 20 million bales were procured at MSP in those two years. Earlier also cotton procurement has been small," the official added.

WHY COTTON PRICES ARE SURGING

THE US cut its production forecast by 3 million bales to 12.6 million bales for FY23

COTTON demand has jumped sharply but the production fell over 20%, leading to a surge in prices

PRODUCTIVITY has been hit due to lack of new seeds and frequent pest attacks and diseases

However, the government has said that India has sufficient cotton stocks as the total availability of cotton without considering imports is 38 million bales while consumption stands at 32 million bales this year.

"The carry-over stock to the next cotton season could be the lowest in many years. But currently the problem is cotton productivity. It has stagnated due to lack of new seeds and frequent pest attacks and diseases," the official said.

Cotton productivity has remained little changed over the years and averages in the range of 450 kg per hectare to 500 kg per hectare compared with 400 kg per hectare in 2006-07. Meanwhile, the global average of cotton productivity stands at 877 kg per hectare.

Experts said that the demand for cotton had jumped sharply this year but the production fell over 20%, which led to a surge in cotton prices.

Textiles form a significant part of the free trade agreements (FTA) that India is negotiating with countries such as the UK and EU. A duty cut for Indian textile products could make Indian exports more competitive and at par with countries such as Bangladesh and Vietnam.

Industry representatives also expect textile demand from India to rise on account of the FTA signed with the UAE and the one being negotiated with Australia.

A query sent to the textile ministry remained unanswered at press time.

Textile secretary UP Singh had earlier said India used to have 5 to 6 million bales in surplus but that this surplus has been falling every year. Besides, the Indian industry had a 10% price advantage as far as cotton was concerned. "But this is no longer there because our consumption would outstrip production in the very near future," he added.

Textile minister Piyush Goyal in a meeting held earlier this month said that all stakeholders must share best practices to boost cotton productivity in India to increase farmer incomes.

The private sector must also contribute to boost research in productivity, farmers' education as well as branding to which the government would provide matching support, Goyal had said, according to a statement issued by the textile ministry.

Context: Government procurement of cotton could remain slow even after the new crop season begins in October, as prices of the commodity are expected to remain high.

Price Support Operations

- **MSP for seeds**: Every year, before commencement of the Cotton Season (Oct. to Sept.), Govt. of India fixes the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of seed cotton (kapas).
- **Objective**:to safeguard the economic interest of cotton farmers in case the kapas prices fall below the MSP level.
- **Authority**: Cotton Corporation of India(CCI) as a nodal agency of Government of India, undertakes Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations strictly as per guidelines issued by Government of India, in the event prices of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) grade kapas fall below the MSP level.
- **Auctions**: CCI acts as a role model in the procurement of kapas (seed cotton) through auction conducted by the APMCs, in the notified market yards.

Production of Cotton in India

- India has the largest area under cotton cultivation in the world.
- India is the world's third largest producer of cotton after China and the USA.
- At present it is grown over 6% of the net sown area.
- Among the states, Maharashtra is leading in cotton acreage with 39.41 lakh ha followed by Gujarat (22.51 lakh ha), Telangana (18.78 lakh ha), Rajasthan (7.08 lakh ha) and Haryana (6.88 lakh ha).

LIVEMINT Page 14

DOLO 650 MEDICINE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

What the Dolo 650 case before the SC is all about

Priyanka Gawande
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MUMBAI

The Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives Association of India (FMRAI) has filed a public interest litigation (PIL) in the Supreme Court seeking to fix accountability for freebies allegedly distributed to doctors in order to get them to prescribe Dolo 650, which was the most consumed anti-fever drug during the covid-19 pandemic.

EXPLAINER

What is the case?

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Centre to respond to a PIL filed by FMRAI which claims the makers of Dolo offered freebies worth ₹1,000 crore to doctors to promote the anti-fever drug. The court called it a "serious issue" and will take up the matter on 29 September.

What is Dolo?

Dolo 650, made by Bengaluru-based Micro Labs Ltd, became a household name during the covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Doctors had started prescribing Dolo as an over-the-counter anti-fever drug. Easy availability and doctors' prescriptions fuelled sales.

What is FMRAI alleging?

FMRAI is a national trade union with units in 300 cities and towns. The body is seeking enforcement of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution, alleging mounting instances of unethical marketing practices by pharma companies in their dealings with healthcare professionals. This, it says, results in irrational and excessive prescriptions and a push for over-priced brands -- practices that directly affect citizens' health.

What else does it say?

In the PIL, the petitioners have also prayed that a statutory code of ethical marketing, with penal consequences, be established for the pharma industry to curb such practices. Because the existing code is voluntary, unethical practices continue to proliferate, something that surfaced during the pandemic.



A PIL claims the makers of Dolo offered freebies to doctors to promote the anti-fever drug.

FMRAI counsel said the price of a tablet up to 500 mg is regulated by the government but that of a drug above 500 mg can be fixed by the drug maker.

What is the CBDT's role here?

It was the Central Board of Direct Taxes that accused the makers of Dolo tablets of distributing freebies worth ₹1,000 crore. Earlier this month, the National Medical Commission (NMC) asked the Income Tax Department for details of doctors who allegedly received freebies from six pharma companies, including Micro Labs against which raids were conducted last month.

What are the relevant laws and regulations?

Indian Medical Council's regulations prescribe a code of conduct for doctors in their relationship with pharma and allied health sector, and bar them from accepting gifts and entertainment, travel facilities, hospitality, cash etc. But the regulation does not apply to drug companies; so doctors' licences are cancelled for misconduct which is actuated, encouraged, aided and abetted by pharma companies.

In a similar case, a bench of Justices U U Lalit and S Ravindra Bhat held that gifting freebies to health professionals is clearly "prohibited by law", and not allowed to be claimed as a deduction.

What do pharma companies say?

Mint reached out to Micro Labs and the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) but there was no response till press time.

And the global scenario?

Many countries including the US, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, UK, Venezuela, Argentina, Russia, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, South Korea, Philippines, Malaysia and Taiwan have stringent laws to check corruption in the pharmaceutical sector.

Context: A public interest litigation (PIL) in the Supreme Court seeking to fix accountability for freebies allegedly distributed to doctors in order to get them to prescribe Dolo 650.

About Dolo 650

- It is a medicine with 650 mg of paracetamol, an antipyretic (fever reducing) and analgesic (pain reducing) drug.
- The medicine is prescribed for reducing fever and pain, and was widely used during Covid-19 pandemic.
- Easy availability and being the doctors' preferred prescription during the second wave are among reasons that have fuelled the rise in sales of Dolo-650.



THE HINDU Page 11

LAW OF THE SEA
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal security)

Indian team deliberating on ocean diversity pact

A key aspect of the agreement is deciding on the rights of companies that undertake exploration for marine resources

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

A delegation from India and other member countries of the United Nations are in New York to deliberate on a one-of-its-kind agreement to conserve marine biodiversity in the high seas, namely the oceans that extend beyond countries' territorial waters.

The agreement follows a resolution by the UN General Assembly in May and is expected to be the final in a series set in motion since 2018 to draft an international legally binding instrument under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The high seas comprise nearly 45% of the Earth's surface.

The Indian delegation comprises officials from the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Centre for Marine Fisheries and Research Institute and the Ministry of External Affairs.

A key aspect of the agreement is deciding on the rights of companies that undertake exploration for biological resources in the high seas. Do companies have absolute rights on any discovery or extraction in these regions or should they share their gains, in terms of intellectual property and royalties with a UN-prescribed body, said M. Ravichandran, Secretary, MoES.



Blue expanse: Oceanic research vessels undertake exploration to survey and study marine resources. • FILE PHOTO

Typically, the focus of mining activity in the sea has been for gas hydrates, precious metals and other fossil fuel resources. However, with advances in biotechnology and genetic engineering, several companies see potential in exotic microbes and other organisms – several of them undiscovered – that abide in the deep ocean and could be used for drugs and vaccines.

Last June, the Union Cabinet approved a 'Blue Economy' policy for India, a nearly ₹4,000-crore programme spread over five years. This among other things will develop a manned submersible vessel as well as work on "bio-prospecting of deep-sea flora and fauna including microbes".

Studies on sustainable utilisation of deep sea bio-resources will be the main focus.

Mr. Ravichandran said that there were already companies carrying out such exploratory activities though little was known about them. "Hence, an international agreement that spells out obligations and permissible activities is important," he told *The Hindu*.

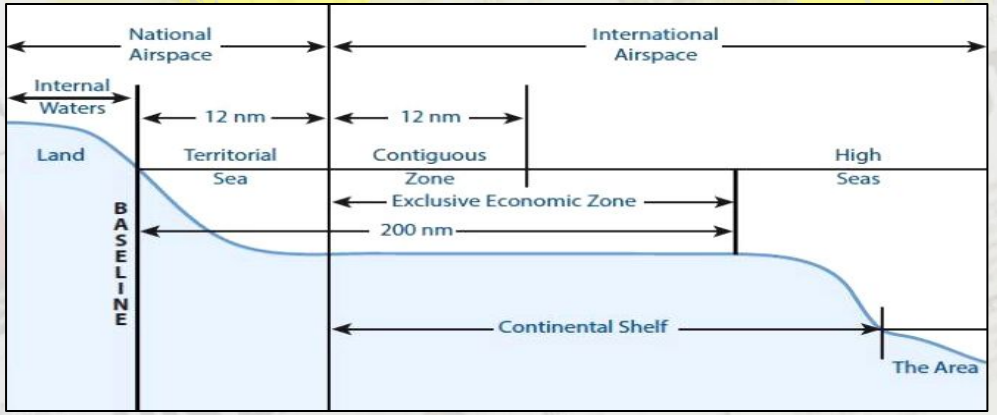
K.M. Gopakumar, legal advisor and an expert on intellectual property matter with the Third World Network, said that there was a "race" among international corporations for biological resources from the sea, making it critical to have an agreement on benefit-sharing. "These resources are the common heritage of mankind and we can't allow it to be monopolised by a few entities," he told *The Hindu*.



Context: Agreement to conserve marine biodiversity in the high seas, namely the oceans that extend beyond countries' territorial waters.

UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)

- Adopted and signed in 1982 and became effective in the year 1994.
- The Convention has become the legal framework for marine and maritime activities.
- **Also known as Law of the Sea**, it divides marine areas into five main zones namely- Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the High Seas.
- The only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces.
- It provides a different legal status to different maritime zones.
- Three new institutions created under UNCLOS
  - The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.
  - The International Seabed Authority.
  - The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.



THE HINDU Page 12

INDIA'S SOLAR POWER ENERGY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

U.P. to generate 16 GW solar power in five years

State aims to develop 20 solar cities

STAFF REPORTER
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government unveiled the draft of its Solar Energy Policy-2022 on Friday, which suggests that the State would be targeting generation of 16,000 Mega Watt of renewable power by 2026-27.

The policy was released by the Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA). The government has proposed to meet the ambitious 16,000 MW target by generating 4,000 MW from solar rooftop projects, 2,000 MW from distributed solar generation and the rest (10,000 MW) from utility/grid scale solar projects and solar parks.

Under the proposed policy, the government would develop 20 solar cities covering 10 lakh households with rooftop installations. The cities include Meerut, Varanasi, Bareilly, Moradabad, Saharanpur, Firozabad, Mirzapur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Agra, Ghaziabad, Jhansi, Muzaffarnagar, Mathura, Azamgarh, Ayodhya and Aligarh. The draft also proposes rooftop solar installations in government buildings and in 21,000 unelectrified primary schools.

"The policy aims to develop solar parks, promotion of small decentralized grid connected solar power, promotion of solar installations and strengthening of transmission network for evacuation of solar projects by development of Green Energy Corridor in Bundelkhand region," the proposal reads.

Context: The Uttar Pradesh government unveiled the draft of its Solar Energy Policy-2022, which suggests that the State would be targeting generation of 16,000 Megawatt of renewable power by 2026-27.

India's Solar Power Energy

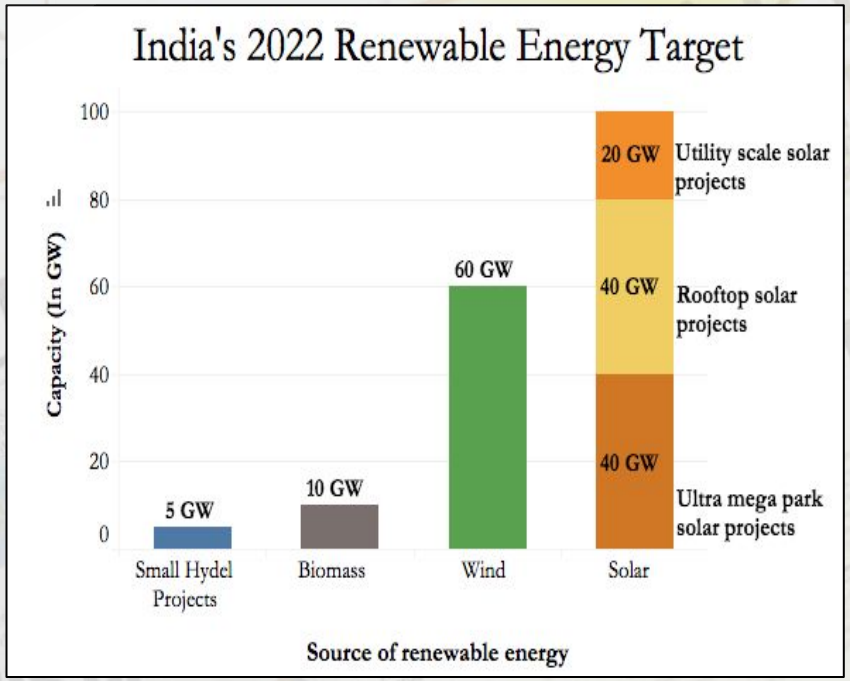
- India currently **ranks fifth** after China, U.S., Japan and Germany in terms of installed solar power capacity.
- **As of December 2021,** the cumulative solar installed capacity of India is 55 GW, which is roughly half the renewable energy (RE) capacity (excluding large hydro power) and 14% of the overall power generation capacity of India.
- **Capacity**: Within the 55 GW, grid-connected utility-scale projects contribute 77% and the rest comes from grid-connected rooftop and off-grid projects.

PM Modi's 10-point action plan to promote solar power

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday listed out 10 action points at the founding conference of the International Solar Alliance, to bring about a solar revolution worldwide. They include:



- Ensuring that cheap and improved solar technology is easily available
- Increasing the percentage of solar energy in countries' national energy mix
- Encouraging innovation for development of solutions to problems/challenges
- Ensuring concessional and risk-free funding for solar projects
- Developing regulatory aspects and norms to speed up adoption of solar technologies, solutions
- Consultancy support for bankable solar projects in developing nations
- Ensuring efforts to propagate solar revolution stress on partnerships and assimilation
- Ensuring creation of a network of centres of excellence that takes into account local circumstances and factors
- Ensuring solar energy policies are seen in the context of development that will help in achieving Sustainable Development Goals.
- Making the ISA secretariat a strong and professional body



TIMES OF INDIA

Page 2

‘NAL SE JAL’ YOJANA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)

‘10cr rural homes now have piped water; 7cr in 3 years’

New Delhi: PM Modi on Friday said it does not take much effort to form a government, but a lot of hard work goes into building a nation as he announced that India has reached a landmark of connecting a total of 10 crore or 52% rural households to piped clean water facility, while over one lakh villages have achieved the ‘Open Defecation Free Plus’ status.

He was addressing an event to mark Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu becoming the first ‘Har Ghar Jal’ certified state and UT respectively. Jal Jeevan Mission, launched in 2019, aims to provide potable tap water supply to all 19 crore rural households by 2024. Lauding the feat of linking 7 crore houses in three years, Modi rued that in 70 years since independence, only 3 crore households had this facility, a remark targeted at Congress.

> We have chosen the way of building the nation. Hence we are working on addressing present and future challenges. For those who don't care for the country, it makes no difference even if the present and future of the nation are destroyed
>
> – PM NARENDRA MODI



Modi listed people’s participation, partnership of stakeholders, political will and optimum utilisation of resources as the four pillars of strength that led his government to reach these milestones as he mentioned the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and ODF Plus plan. TNN

▶ A global crisis: PM, P 17

Context: PM said that India had reached a landmark of connecting a total of 10 crore rural households (52% of total rural households) to piped clean water facility, while over one lakh villages have achieved the ‘Open Defecation Free Plus’ (ODF) status.

Nal Se Jal Yojana (Launched in 2019)

- **Nodal Agency:** Ministry of Jal Shakti
- **Aim**: To provide piped drinking water to every rural home by 2024
- Component of the government’s Jal Jivan Mission.
- **Implementation**: Based on a unique model where paani samitis (water committee) comprising villagers will decide what they will pay for the water they consume.
    - The tariff they fix will not be the same for everyone in the village.
    - Those who have large households will pay more, while poor households or households where there is no earning member, will be exempted.

Jal Jeevan Mission (Launched in 2019)

- It envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.
- Under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Implementation**: Based on a community approach to water and includes extensive Information, Education and Communication as a key component of the mission.
- It looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone’s priority.
- **Fund sharing pattern:** between the Centre and states is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 50:50 for other states, and 100% for Union Territories.

DOWN TO EARTH

August 20

TROPICAL CYCLONES

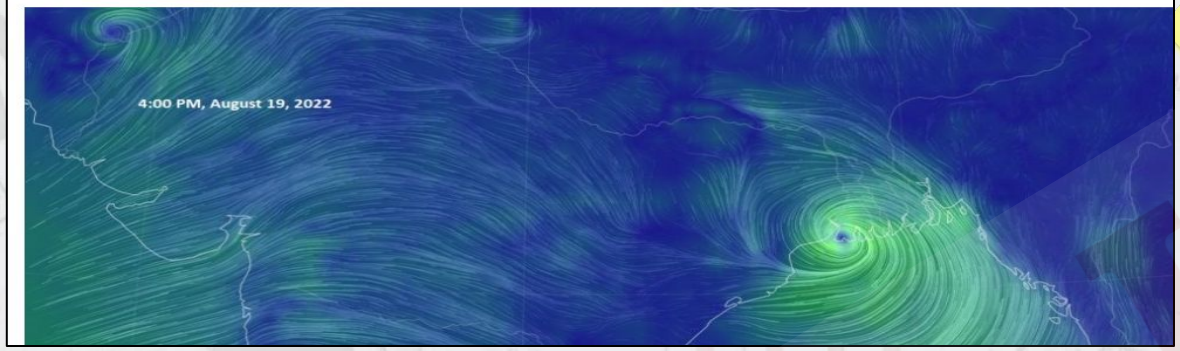
(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geographical Phenomena)

ENVIRONMENT

Weather Alert: Possible cyclone over West Bengal, Odisha

Deep depression over Bay of Bengal unusually positioned; Storm expected to weaken by Aug 20

By DTE Staff
Published: Friday 19 August 2022



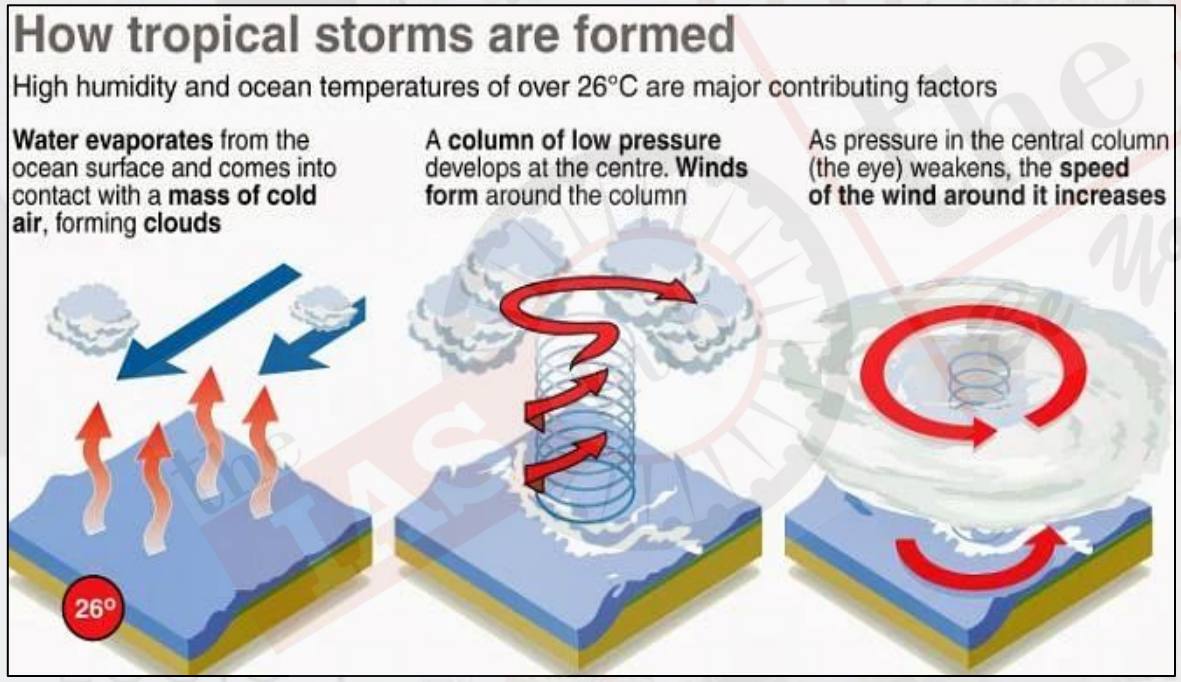
Context: An unusual storm has taken form over the Bay of Bengal, which can turn into a possible cyclone. It is not common to have cyclonic storms before the monsoon season is over.

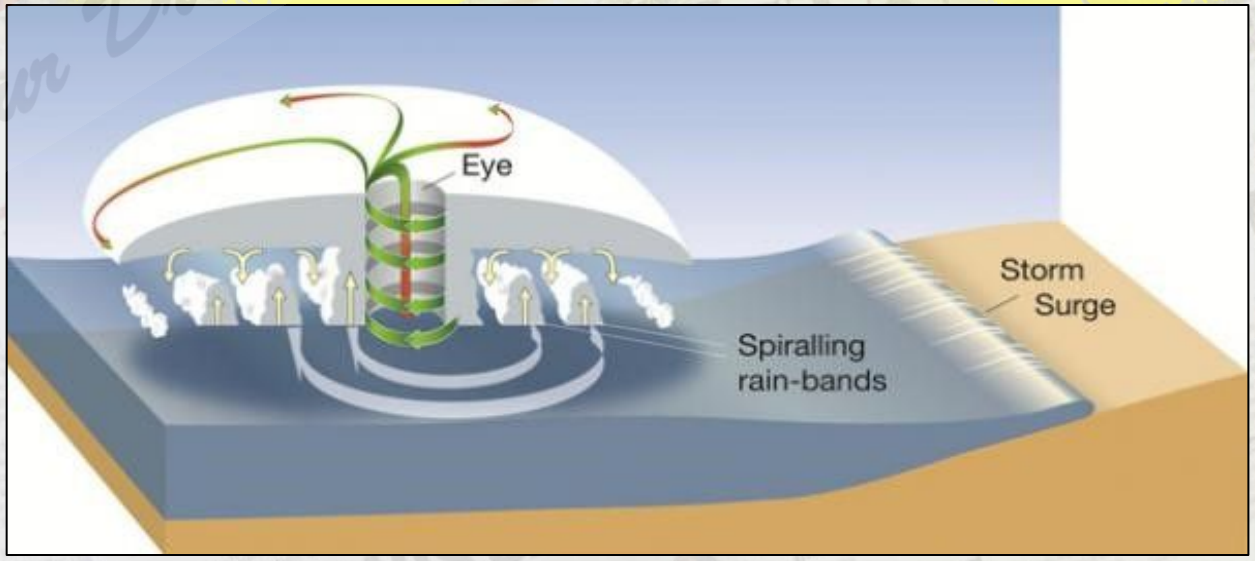
Tropical cyclone

- Tropical cyclones are low pressure systems that form over warm tropical waters.
- They typically form when the sea-surface temperature is above 26.5°C.
- Tropical cyclones can continue for many days, even weeks, and may follow quite erratic paths.
- A cyclone will dissipate once it moves over land or over cooler oceans.

How do tropical cyclones form?

- A cluster of thunderstorms can develop over warm tropical oceans.
- If that cluster persists in an area of low pressure, it can start rotating.
- If the conditions are just right, the cluster of thunderstorms can grow in size and sustain itself and then develop into a tropical cyclone.





PIB August 20

DRAGON FRUIT CULTIVATION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Agriculture)

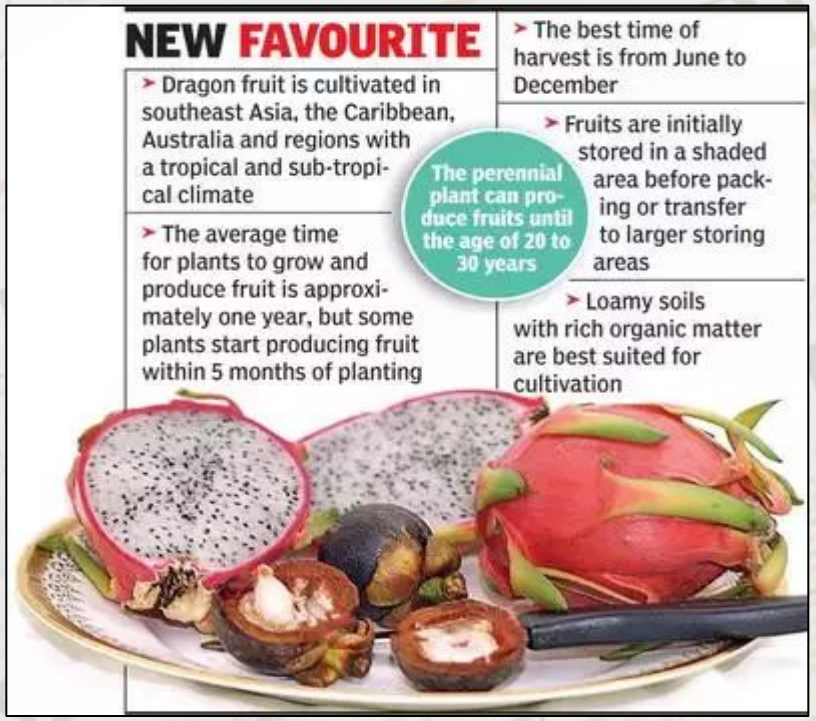
Buyer Seller Meet organised by APEDA, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to promote Dragon Fruit export

Posted On: 19 AUG 2022 6:55PM by PIB Delhi

In a first of its kind initiative, a "Buyer Seller Meet on Dragon Fruit" was organized by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Bangalore Regional Office in collaboration with University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore and KAPPEC, at the GKVK Campus, Bangalore to promote export of Dragon Fruit.

About Dragon fruit

- **Largest Producer:** The world's largest producer and exporter of dragon fruit is Vietnam.
- **Climate Conditions:** As per the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, the fruit plant doesn't need much water and can be cultivated on dry land.
  - The cost of cultivation is initially high.
  - The plant doesn't need productive land, it gives maximum production from the non-productive, less fertile areas.
- **Related Steps taken by the State Governments**
  - The **Gujarat Government** recently **renamed dragon fruit as kamlam** (lotus) and announced an incentive for farmers who cultivate it.
  - The **Haryana Government** also provides a grant for farmers who are ready to plant this exotic fruit variety.
  - The **Government of Maharashtra** has taken the initiative to **promote dragon fruit cultivation** in different areas of the state by providing good quality planting material and subsidies for its cultivation through the Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).



DST

August 20

MEDICINAL PLANT GARDEN

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Environment & Ecology)

DST Secretary inaugurates the Maharishi Charaka Medicinal Plant Garden at IASST, Guwahati

The Maharishi Charaka Medicinal Plant Garden was inaugurated at the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati, an autonomous institute under Department of Science and Technology, on 17th August 2022,

About Medicinal Plant Garden

- The medicinal plant garden would create awareness among visitors, students, farmers, and others about the conservation and traditional uses of herbs and medicinal plants and can help them learn how to identify and conserve these important medicinal plants.
- The **garden is a rich repository** of fifty-three different medicinal plant species based on Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM).
- Many of them are highly abundant in the NER region of India.
- **Named after Maharshi Charaka**: to recognize his mammoth contribution to Indian medicinal plants and Ayurveda, the garden will conserve Nature's Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN), including the medicinal plants that are on the way to extinction.
- **The knowledge of the development of ideas** related to the usage of medicinal plants with awareness will increase the ability to combat the challenges encountered by healthcare professionals.

About Maharshi Charaka

- Born 300 BC Acharya Charak was one of the **key contributors to Ayurveda's ancient** art and science, medicine and lifestyle system developed in Ancient India.
- Acharya Charak was crowned to be the **Father of Medicine.**
- He is well known as **the editor of the medical treatise Charaka Samhita**, one of the basic books of traditional Indian medicine and Ayurveda, which is contained in the Brhat-Trayi.
- Also attempted to list the names of all the plants and animals are 360 number.

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