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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 7

WHEAT PRODUCTION IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Agriculture)

Agriculture ministry's advance estimates: Production of wheat sees a drop, but several crops set for record

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

THE PRODUCTION of wheat is estimated to come down to 106.84 million tonnes in 2021-22 from 109.59 million tonnes in 2020-21, according to the Fourth Advance Estimates of Production of Foodgrains for 2021-22 released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on Wednesday.

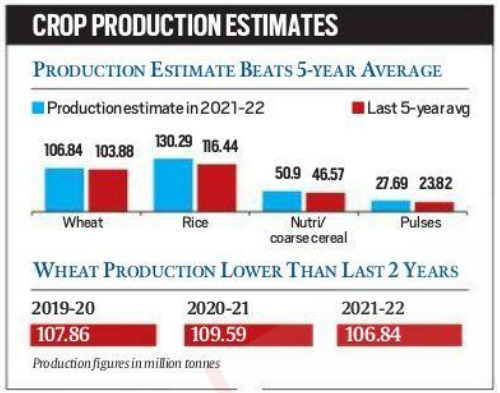
In a statement, the ministry said, "Production of Wheat during 2021-22 is estimated at 106.84 million tonnes. It is higher by 2.96 million tonnes than the last five years' average wheat production of 103.88 million tonnes."

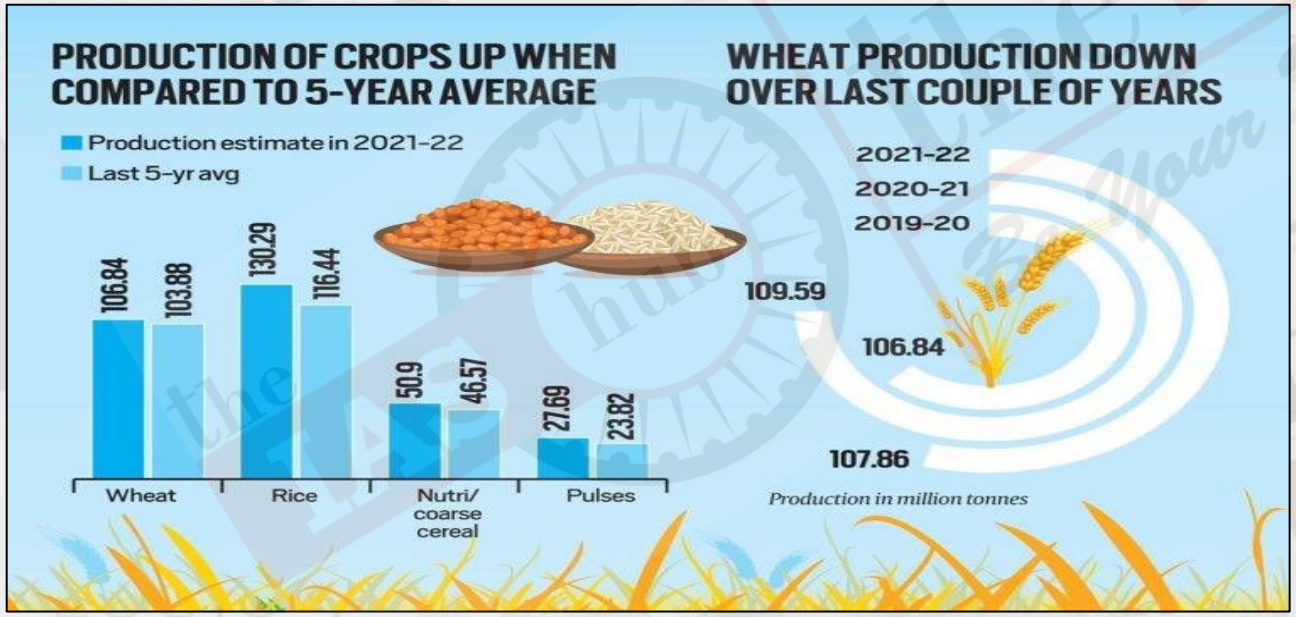
The estimated wheat production figure for 2021-22 is 2.87 per cent lower than the target of 110 million tonnes. It is also lower than the total wheat output of 107.86 million tonnes in 2019-20.

The dip in production comes at a time when the Food Corporation of India's wheat stocks have depleted to a 14-year low. According to information on the FCI website, wheat stocks stood at 26.645 million tonnes as on August 1, 2022, which is the lowest since August 2009, when the figure stood at 31.623 million.

According to the ministry, overall foodgrain production in the country is estimated to reach a new high of 315.72 million tonnes in 2021-22, which is higher than the target of 307.31 million tonnes for the year. It is also higher than the total foodgrain output of 310.74 million tonnes recorded in 2020-21.

"Record production is estimated of rice, maize, gram, pulses, rapeseed and mustard, oilseeds and sugarcane," the ministry statement read. According to the statement, the total production of rice during 2021-22 is estimated to be a record 130.29 million tonnes. It is higher by 13.85 million tonnes than the last five-year average production of 116.44 million tonnes.





Context: The production of wheat is estimated to come down to 106.84 million tonnes in 2021-22 from 109.59 million tonnes in 2020-21.

Present status of India's wheat exports

- India is the world's second-biggest wheat producer.
- **Major export countries:**
  - Bangladesh(55.9 percent)
  - Sri Lanka(7.9 percent)
  - UAE(6.9 percent)
  - Indonesia(5.9 percent)
  - Yemen(5.3 percent)
  - Philippines(5.1 percent)
- Wheat is under Public distribution system (PDS) in India.

Climate conditions for Wheat production

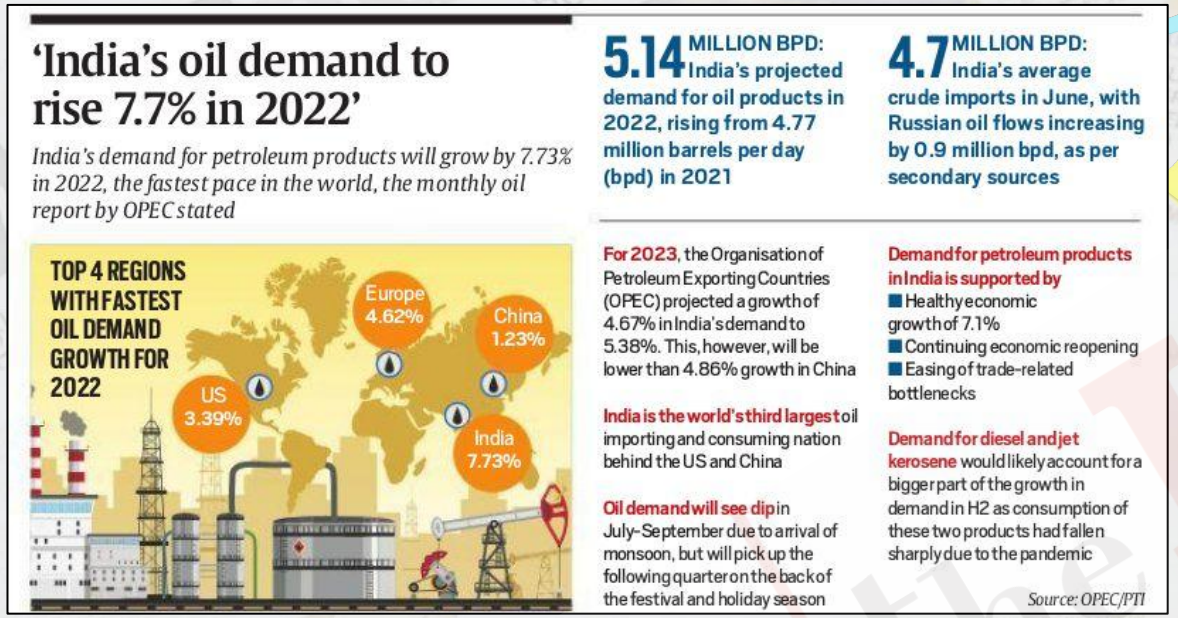
- Rabi Crop sown in October-December and harvested during April-June.
- **Temperature required**: Between 23±3°C and for good tillering temperature should range between 16-20°C.
- **Rainfall**: 50 cm to 100 cm.
- **Soil Type**: Soils with a clay loam or loam texture, good structure and moderate water holding capacity are ideal for wheat cultivation.
- **Wheat producing states in India**: Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Gujarat.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 13

INDIA'S OIL DEMAND

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)



'India's oil demand to rise 7.7% in 2022'

India's demand for petroleum products will grow by 7.73% in 2022, the fastest pace in the world, the monthly oil report by OPEC stated

5.14 MILLION BPD: India's projected demand for oil products in 2022, rising from 4.77 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2021

4.7 MILLION BPD: India's average crude imports in June, with Russian oil flows increasing by 0.9 million bpd, as per secondary sources

For 2023, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) projected a growth of 4.67% in India's demand to 5.38%. This, however, will be lower than 4.86% growth in China

India is the world's third largest oil importing and consuming nation behind the US and China

Oil demand will see dip in July-September due to arrival of monsoon, but will pick up the following quarter on the back of the festival and holiday season

Demand for petroleum products in India is supported by
- Healthy economic growth of 7.1%
- Continuing economic reopening
- Easing of trade-related bottlenecks

Demand for diesel and jet kerosene would likely account for a bigger part of the growth in demand in H2 as consumption of these two products had fallen sharply due to the pandemic

Source: OPEC/PTI

Context: India's demand for petroleum products like petrol and diesel will grow by 7.73 per cent in 2022, the fastest pace in the world.

Status of India's Oil sector

- India is the world's third largest oil importing and consuming nation behind the US and China.
- The oil and gas sector is among the eight core industries in India.
- **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in natural gas, petroleum products and refineries among others.

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

- Founded in Baghdad, Iraq.
- **Founding Members**: Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- A permanent, intergovernmental organization.
- **Objective**: to co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers.
- **Headquarter**: Vienna, Austria.
- **OPEC membership is open to any country** that is a substantial exporter of oil and which shares the ideals of the organization.

LIVEMINT Page 5

WEB3 INDUSTRY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

AN IDEAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR INDIA'S WEB3 INDUSTRY



EXPERT VIEW

MANISH AGARWAL

Respond to this column at feedback@livemint.com

The internet, conceptualized to deliver the promise of democratizing information sharing and wealth creation, has rapidly evolved into the centralization of power in the hands of a few large platforms with their own "closed wall gardens", all under the guise of building an open ecosystem.

This stands even more pronounced in Web 2.0 gaming, wherein game publishers retain 100% of the money invested by gamers while buying virtual items in the form of in-app purchases. Unlike any other economy, in Web 2.0 games, players don't even own the assets they have purchased. This inherent lop-sided sharing of economic value makes Web 3.0(Web3) gaming a very promising and disruptive business model. Web3 promises open, decentralized technology platforms that are directly accountable to their users; and offer higher data integrity and security.

A 2021 NASSCOM Industry report on Cryptotech has estimated that over 800,000 new jobs could be created by the year 2030 in the Indian Web3 industry. But the vacuum around proactive policy discussions could eventually snowball into talent and capital flowing outward from our country and a loss of India-centric IPs in the Web3 space. Currently, the policy narrative around Web3 is unfortunately seen from the prism of a single-use case of crypto trading.

This is not surprising given that crypto exchange was the easiest to capture the imagination of millions of non-crypto savvy Indians. However, the applications of blockchain / Web3 are evolving into all spheres of economic activity across agritech, DeFi, GameFi, HealthFi, eSports etc. For example, the applicability of NFTs, other than gaming and art, is also huge – NFT birth certificates; academic transcripts; NFT could also serve as a potential tool to eliminate counterfeit products as each transaction in the logistics chain gets recorded on the blockchain. Regulating NFTs solely on the basis of the risks emanating from their usage in one particular application would be unfair.

India shouldn't be cast aside to the periphery in a mere back-end-servicing role to the Web3 hotspots emerging globally right now. Policymakers need to look beyond trading exchanges while formulating policies and work with the industry to make India a global hub of innovation.

There are a few things that must be considered while looking at Web3 policy. First, Web3 relies on the core concepts of trustlessness and permissionlessness. It is a Privacy-First, decentralized infrastructure where users can thrive in an environment where they don't have to gain authorization from a governing body (permissionlessness) to create or trade. Also, they can interact directly with each other without an intermediary (trustlessness) thanks to "programmable trust" via smart contracts. A smart contract is essentially any program that runs on the Ethereum blockchain and oversees the independent execution of a contract with the terms of the agreement between two parties written directly into the code.

Second, an ideal Web3 policy must nurture the pathways that allow Indian entrepreneurs and platforms to flourish. A sandbox regulatory framework would help facilitate this as it will oversee live testing of new Web3 products or services in a controlled/test environment for which regulators may permit certain relaxations.

And third, an expert panel may be constituted under MeitY with members from NITI Aayog's Frontier Technologies vertical, experts and industry representatives, who can then collaboratively analyze observations from the regulatory sandbox, study global best practices and track industry needs. This would establish an open channel of communication between regulators and the industry; and will go a long way in driving innovation, employment and revenues to the state exchequer.

> Web3 will end the rigid control and exploitation faced by creators and developers

Web3 will end the rigid control and exploitation faced by creators and developers through subjective parameters issued by BigTech, which influences the form, reach and monetary benefit their content will have on the internet. The policymaking process should focus on building a holistic, facilitative framework for a new digital economy that establishes India as a formidable Web3 leader.

Manish Agarwal is the chief executive officer of Nazara Technologies.



Context: Web3 will end the rigid control and exploitation faced by creators and developers through subjective parameters issued by BigTech, which influences the form, reach and monetary benefit their content will have on the internet.

Web 3.0

- **A** decentralized internet to be run on blockchain technology.
- It would be different from the versions in use, Web 1.0 and Web 2.0.

THREE STAGES OF INTERNET CONSUMPTION

	Web1	Web2	Web3
Time period*	1990-2005	2005-till date	2021 -
Where data is stored	Server's file system	On-premise/Cloud	Blockchain, distributed across multiple networks
Examples	Static web pages	User generated content like Social media, and web applications like e-commerce etc...	NFTs, cryptocurrency transaction
Who owns data	Companies running the webpages	Companies that host application, cloud service providers	No one owns the data
Transacting	No transaction possible	Payment gateways for currency transactions	Transaction happens using crypto tokens

*Source: *A16Z blog on Web3, Geeks for Geeks, media reports*

LIVEMINT Page 6

FRAMEWORK FOR MICROFINANCE LOANS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

New RBI rule trims Q1 microloan disbursals

Microlenders must assess the indebtedness of the borrowing household

Shayan Ghosh
shayan.g@livemint.com
MUMBAI



Aggregate microfinance disbursal in April-June stood at ₹57,842 cr, down 35% from the March quarter.

Microfinance companies' loan disbursal in June quarter fell from the preceding quarter, a phenomenon experts attributed to a recent Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guideline revising risk assessment practices for these lenders.

Aggregate microfinance disbursal in the June quarter stood at ₹57,842 crore, down 35% from the March quarter, showed data from microfinance institutions' industry body Sa-Dhan. These include loans by non-banking financial company-microfinance institutions (NBFC-MFIs), universal banks, small finance banks, non-banking financial companies and not-for-profit companies.

Noting that this was a result of lenders adjusting their policies to the new RBI framework, experts said the first quarter of a fiscal typically sees fewer loans being disbursed than the preceding three months.

Effective 1 April, RBI capped the loan repayment obligation of a household at 50% of monthly income. This includes all repayments that a household has to make, not just for microfinance loans. According to analysts at ICICI Securities, more microloan applications have been rejected after implementing the guidelines, with the interest rate increasing to 50% from 30-35% earlier.

"This is the initial stage of implementing the new regulatory norm, and will therefore take a little time at the ground level as people need more training. That apart, certain internal systems need to be tweaked as well," said Jiji Mammen, executive director and chief executive of Sa-Dhan.

Now, there is a more elaborate exercise to be carried out to assess the indebtedness of the household and not just the borrower, and that is also taking more time, said Mammen. He added that in the coming days, the industry will get more familiarized with the new policies and the teething troubles will be behind.

An internal Sa-Dhan study showed that rejection rates have gone up from 30% earlier to an average of about 42% at present. The primary reason for rejection rates going up was because some applicants were unable to meet the new criteria on equated monthly instalments (EMIs) being capped at 50% of the total income.

Others said the new RBI guideline provides the industry guardrails on risk practices to avoid future delinquencies.

"If you have a prudent framework in place and you are rejecting a loan application because it exceeds the prescribed ceiling, it reduces your risk. Lending to indebted clients could come to hit you back later and while rejection rates have gone up, especially in urban areas, it is not a cause for concern," said Alok Misra, chief executive and director of industry body Microfinance Institutions Network.

Misra said if the rejection rates go up because some borrowers are overleveraged, it shows risk management systems are working. He does not see rejections dampening growth. "The market comprises 250-300 million borrowers and we have reached only about 60 million. There are many new-to-credit customers whom we have not lent to, and areas where we have not yet reached," said Misra.

Meanwhile, ICICI Securities, in a report on Wednesday, said among microloan providers, RBL Bank saw the sharpest sequential fall in assets under management, at 23%, in Q1, followed by Spandana Sphoorty (down 16%) and Bandhan Bank, Indusind Bank and Credit Access Grameen seeing 4-7% decline in AUM.

CREDIT HURDLE

FROM 1 April, RBI capped the loan repayment obligation of a household at 50% of monthly income

THIS includes all repayments that a household has to make, not just for microfinance loans

LOAN rejections have gone up from 30% to an average of about 42% now as applicants fail to meet new norms

Context: Microfinance companies' loan disbursal in June quarter fell from the preceding quarter, a phenomenon experts attributed to a recent Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guideline revising risk assessment practices for these lenders.

New RBI rules

- Revised the definition of a microfinance loan to indicate a collateral-free loan given to a household having annual income of up to Rs. 3 lakh.
- No prepayment penalty on microfinance loans.
- Regulated Entities (REs) would have to put in place a mechanism for identification of the borrowers facing repayment-related difficulties

Applicability of the Guidelines

- All Commercial Banks (including Small Finance Banks, Local Area Banks, and Regional Rural Banks) excluding Payments Banks.
- All Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks/ State Co-operative Banks/ District Central Co-operative Banks.
- All Non-Banking Financial Companies (including Microfinance Institutions and Housing Finance Companies).



THE HINDU Page 1

ROHINGYA MIGRANTS ISSUE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal security)

MHA overrules Minister's tweet on providing flats to Rohingya

Denial comes after Puri announces shifting them to an apartment complex

SUHASINI HAIDAR
VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Hours after Minister for Urban Development Hardeep Singh Puri tweeted that all Rohingya migrants from Myanmar living in a camp in Delhi will be shifted to flats, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued a strong denial.

The Ministry also said that it had issued orders that the shanty town where the Rohingya were now living in be designated a "detention centre", pending the deportation of all of the hundreds of people living there.

In his tweet on Wednesday morning, Mr. Puri called the plans to move the Rohingya to an apartment complex built for economically weaker sections (EWS), a "landmark decision" by the Narendra Modi government.

"In a landmark decision, all Rohingya refugees will be shifted to EWS flats in Bakkarwala area of Delhi. They will be provided basic amenities, UNHCR (UN High Commission for Refugees) IDs & round-the-clock Delhi Police protection," Mr. Puri tweeted, adding that India had always welcomed refugees.

Stokes criticism

After a storm of criticism from groups such as the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), the Home Ministry denied any such plan had been cleared by the Centre, and also blamed the Delhi government for the proposal to move the Rohingya "illegal foreigners", indicating it was not responsible for the decision.

In its response, the MHA said it "has not given any directions to provide EWS flats to Rohingya at Bakkarwala in New Delhi". "The MHA has directed the government of Delhi to ensure that the Rohingya illegal foreigners will continue at the present location," referring to the shanty town in Delhi's Madanpur area where the Rohingya currently reside, adding that the "MHA has already taken up the matter of deportation of illegal foreigners with the country concerned through the Ministry of External Affairs [MEA]."

The MEA declined to comment on the issue.

Mr. Puri later tweeted that the MHA's position was "correct", but didn't explain or delete his previous tweets making the announcement at the time of going to press.

Directive to Delhi govt.

The Home Ministry also said that it had directed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government of Delhi to declare the Madanpur Rohingya area a "detention centre" immediately, which it has not done so far.

In response, AAP's local MLA and spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj told *The Hindu* that declaring detention centres was the responsibility of the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), which is under the MHA. Adding to the confusion is the fact that the Rohingya camp is at present built on land donated by the Zakat Foundation of India, after a previous camp was destroyed in a fire.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10
MORE REPORTS ▸ PAGES 2 & 11

Hardeep Singh Puri @HardeepSPuri — 7:32 AM · Aug. 17, 2022

India has always welcomed those who have sought refuge in the country. In a landmark decision all #Rohingya #Refugees will be shifted to EWS flats in Bakkarwala area of Delhi. They will be provided basic amenities, UNHCR IDs & round-the-clock @DelhiPolice protection.

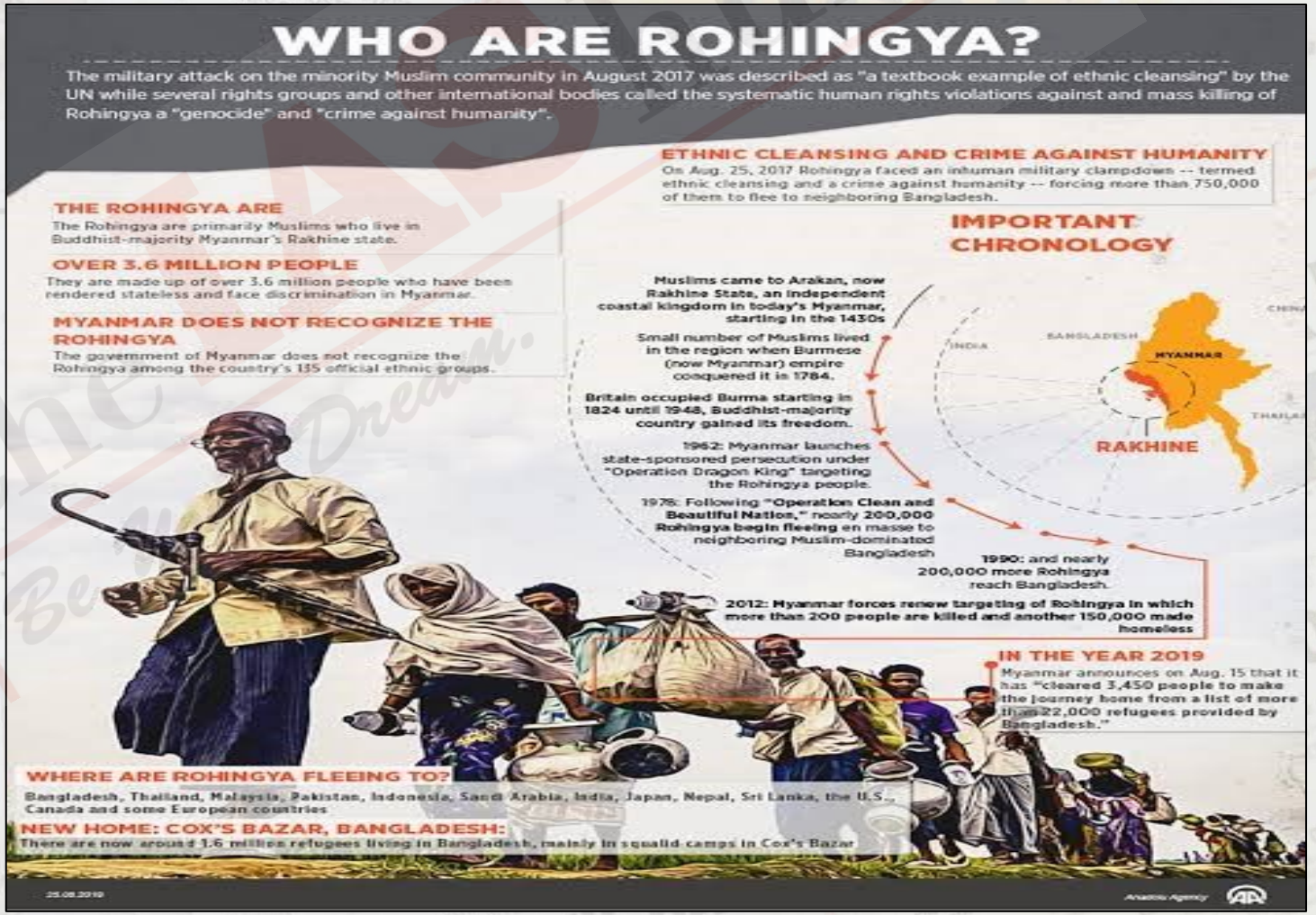
गृहमंत्री कार्यालय, HMO India @HMOIndia — 2:50 PM · Aug. 17, 2022

With respect to news reports in certain sections of media regarding Rohingya illegal foreigners, it is clarified that Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has not given any directions to provide EWS flats to Rohingya illegal migrants at Bakkarwala in New Delhi.



Drawing the line: Children playing at the Rohingya settlement colony in Delhi's Kalindi Kunj on Wednesday. ■ R. V. MOORTHY

Context: Hours after Minister for Urban Development tweeted that all Rohingya migrants from Myanmar living in a camp in Delhi will be shifted to flats, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued a strong denial.



THE HINDU Page 12

PARTICULATE MATTER EMISSIONS (PM2.5)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Environment & Ecology)

'Delhi's PM2.5 levels worst in the world'

Kolkata placed second; study says Indian cities witness high PM emissions, but low NO_2 emissions

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

A global analysis of air quality found that Indian cities, while recording particulate matter emissions (PM2.5) that are among the highest in the world, do relatively better on nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) emissions.

The report, *Air Quality and Health in Cities*, released by U.S.-based Health Effects Institute on Wednesday, analyses pollution and global health effects for more than 7,000 cities around the world, focusing on two of the most harmful pollutants - fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2).

The report, using data from 2010 to 2019, found that global patterns for exposures to the two key air pollutants were "strikingly different." While exposures to PM2.5 pollution tend to be higher in cities located in low- and middle-income countries, exposure to NO_2 is high across cities in high-income as well as low- and middle-income countries.

Delhi and Kolkata were ranked first and second in the list of top 10 most polluted cities when PM2.5 levels were compared, with Delhi and Kolkata reporting an average annual exposure of (relative to population) of 110 ug/m3 and 84 ug/m3 respectively. ug/m3 refers to microgram per cubic metre.

However no Indian city appeared in the list of top 10 - or even top 20 - polluted cities when NO_2 levels were compared. This list saw Shanghai at the top with an average annual exposure of 41 ug/m3. Average NO_2 levels for Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai, according to the report, ranged from 20-30 ug/m3.

NO_2 comes mainly from the burning of fuels in older vehicles, power plants, industrial facilities and residential cooking and heating.

As city residents tend to live closer to busy roads with dense traffic, they are often exposed to higher NO_2 pollution than residents of rural areas.



Gasping for air: Motorist and pedestrian travelling amid heavy smog conditions in New Delhi. ▪ FILE PHOTO

In 2019, 86% of the more than 7,000 cities analysed in the report exceeded the WHO's 10 ug/m3 guideline for NO_2, impacting about 2.6 billion people.

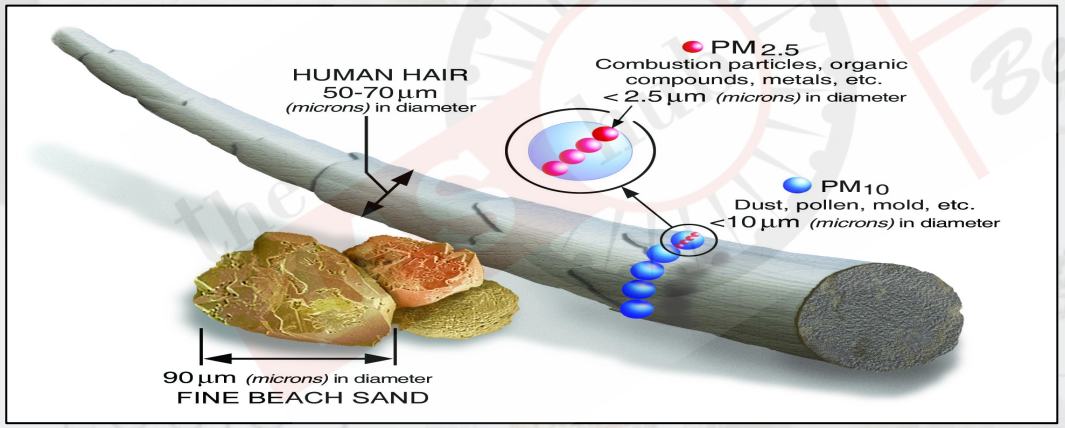
"While PM2.5 pollution tends to get more attention on known hotspots around the world, less data has been available for NO_2 at this global scale," the report notes.

An expert, who was not associated with the study, told *The Hindu* that this paradoxical situation in India was likely due to the relatively lower adoption of high-efficiency engine vehicles. "Complete combustion of fuel results in higher NOx (nitrogen oxides) where incomplete combustion sees other kinds of emissions," said Sachchida Nand Tripathi, Professor, IIT-Kanpur and an expert on air pollution in India. Other cities with high NO_2 population levels included Moscow, Beijing, Paris, Istanbul and Seoul.

Due to their highly reactive nature, nitrogen oxides also contributed to the formation of other pollutants, including ozone and particulate matter. NO_2 also has a shorter lifetime compared with PM2.5 and other air pollutants. As a result, NO_2 levels show very high variability in space and time – levels can vary significantly even across a few kilometres. In comparison, PM2.5 levels tend to show less spatial variation.

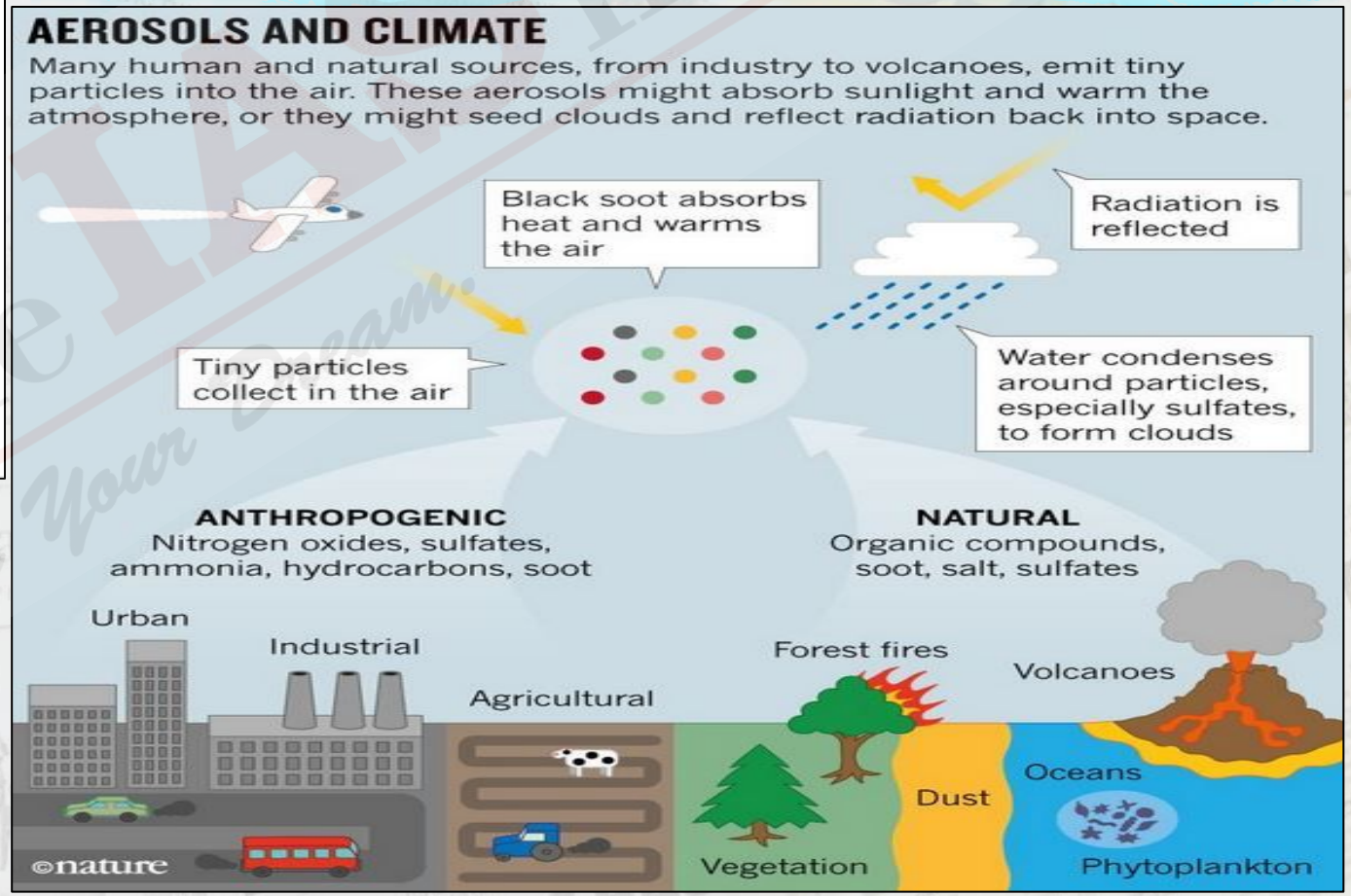
In 2019, the global average NO_2 exposure was 15.5 ug/m3, but exposure levels varied considerably across cities.

Ground monitoring of air quality remains limited in many regions of the world, the report adds, obscuring the true degree of NO_2 pollution in countries such as India.



Context: A global analysis of air quality found that Indian cities, while recording particulate matter emissions (PM2.5) that are among the highest in the world, do relatively better on nitrogen dioxide (NO2) emissions.

PM2.5 refers to particles that have diameter less than 2.5 micrometres (more than 100 times thinner than a human hair) and remain suspended for longer.



SCIENCE REPORTER

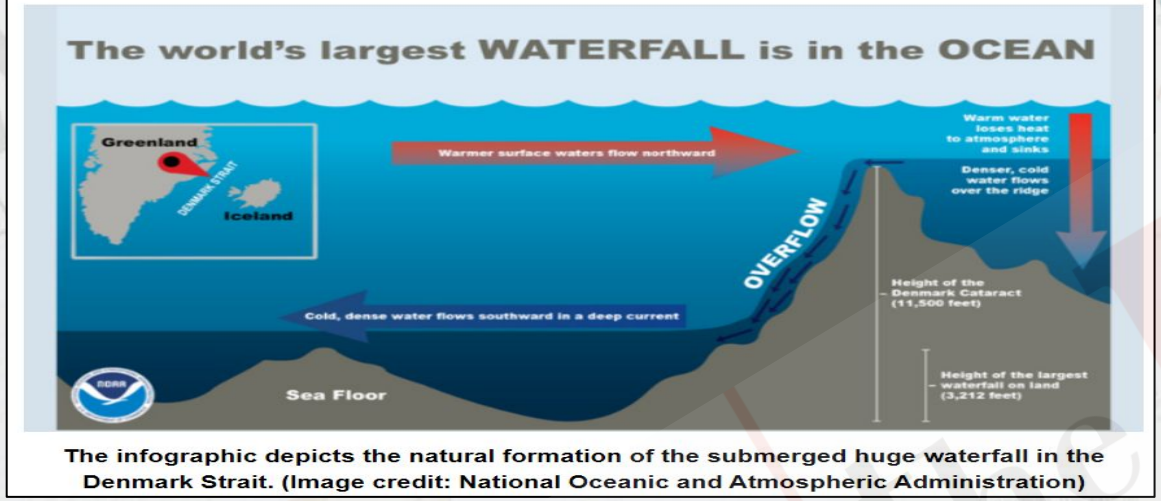
August 18

WORLD'S LARGEST WATERFALL BENEATH OCEAN

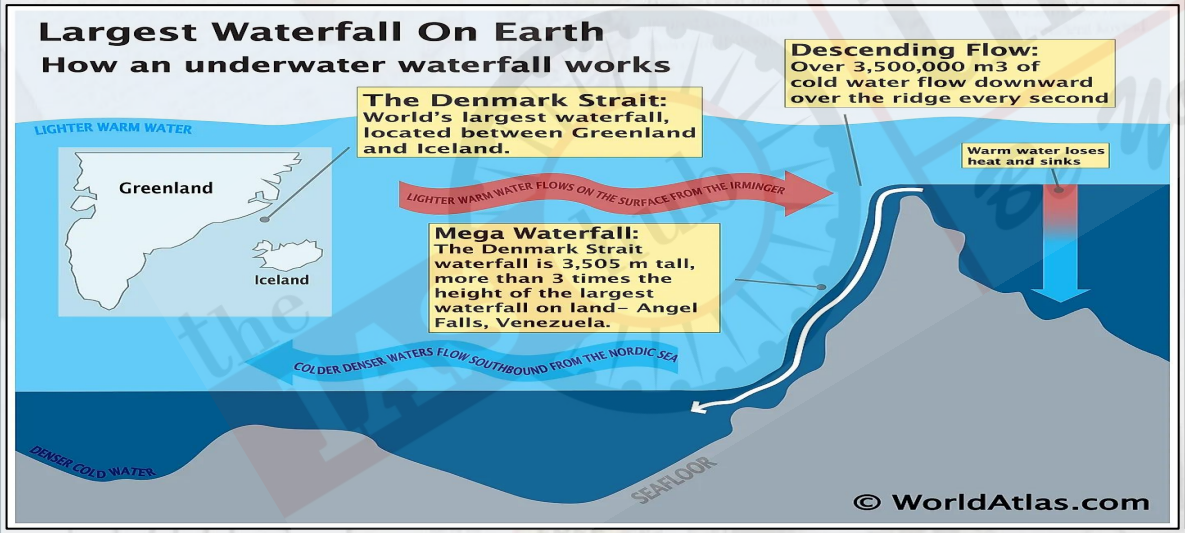
(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

Denmark Strait Cataract — World's Largest Waterfall beneath Ocean

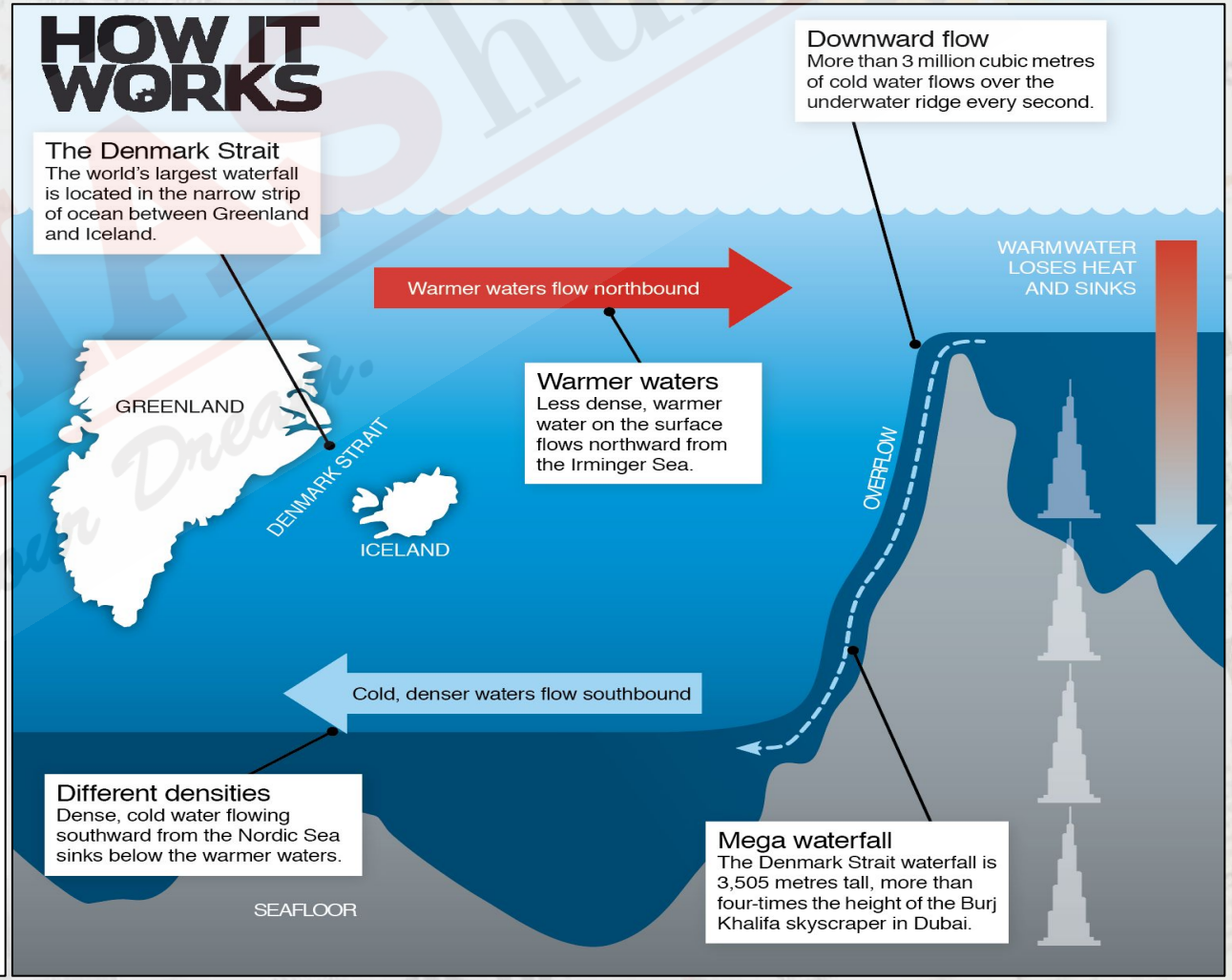
Sonali Nagar



The infographic depicts the natural formation of the submerged huge waterfall in the Denmark Strait. (Image credit: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)



Context: one of the mightiest of waterfalls exists in the Denmark Strait nestled between Iceland (northwest) and Greenland (southeast) — Denmark Strait Cataract.



DOWN TO EARTH

August 18

SOLAR PV PANELS

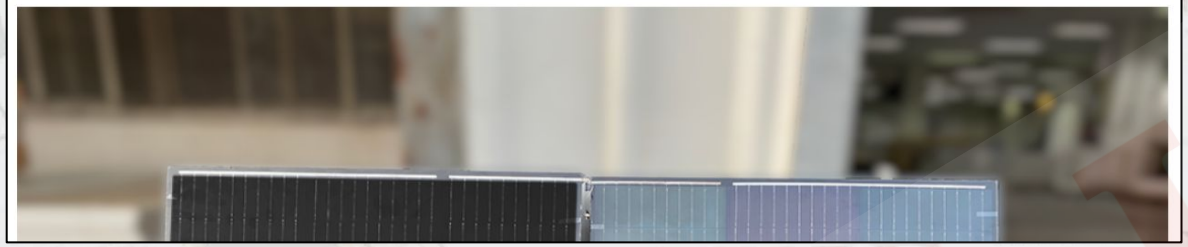
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech and Environment & Ecology)

How to sell solar panels? How about adding some colour

Traditional panels deep black for absorbing light; New tech with photonic glass both efficient and attractive

NEXT NEWS >

By Nandita Banerji
Published: Wednesday 17 August 2022



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

Context: Conventional solar panels can look underwhelming as more public spaces incorporate photovoltaic (PV) technology.

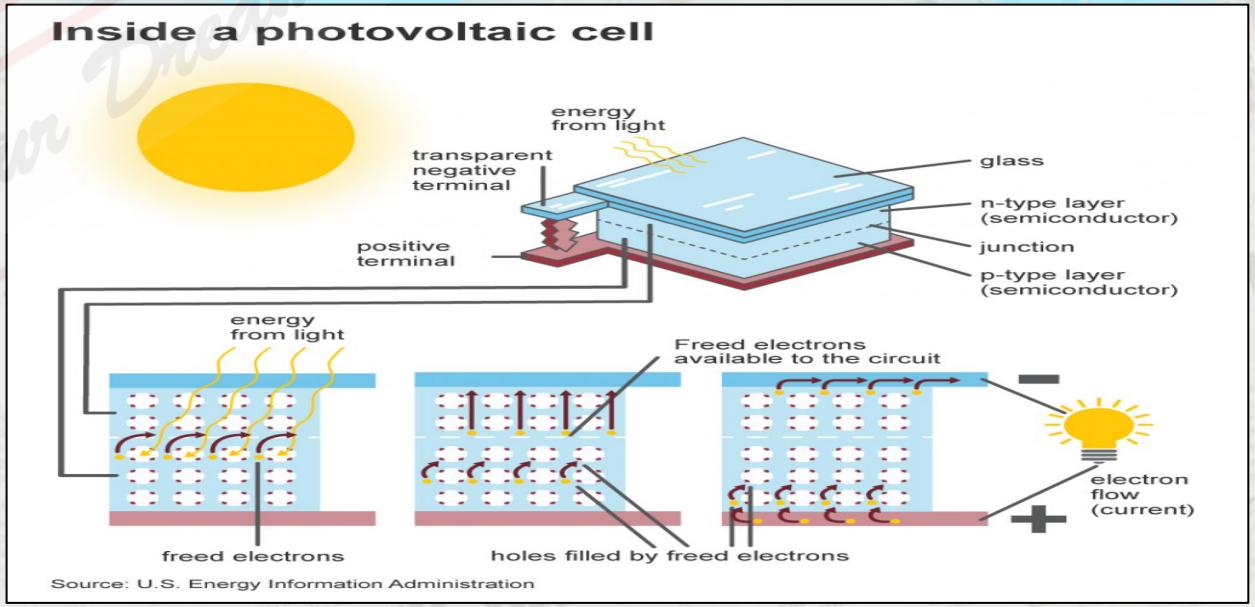
A new type of panel that takes on colourful hues and is almost as efficient as traditional ones might be a solution.

Solar PV panels

- A typical solar PV value chain consists of first fabricating polysilicon ingots which need to be transformed into thin Silicon wafers that are needed to manufacture the PV mini-modules.
- The bigger size of the solar wafer there is an advantage in terms of silicon cost per wafer, as this effectively means lower loss of silicon during ingot to wafer processing.

Working on PV panel

- When the sun shines onto a solar panel, energy from the sunlight is absorbed by the PV cells in the panel. This energy creates electrical charges that move in response to an internal electric field in the cell, causing electricity to flow.



PIB

August 18

ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social issues)

PM expresses happiness after the success of Aspirational Districts program

Posted On: 17 AUG 2022 2:32PM by PIB Delhi

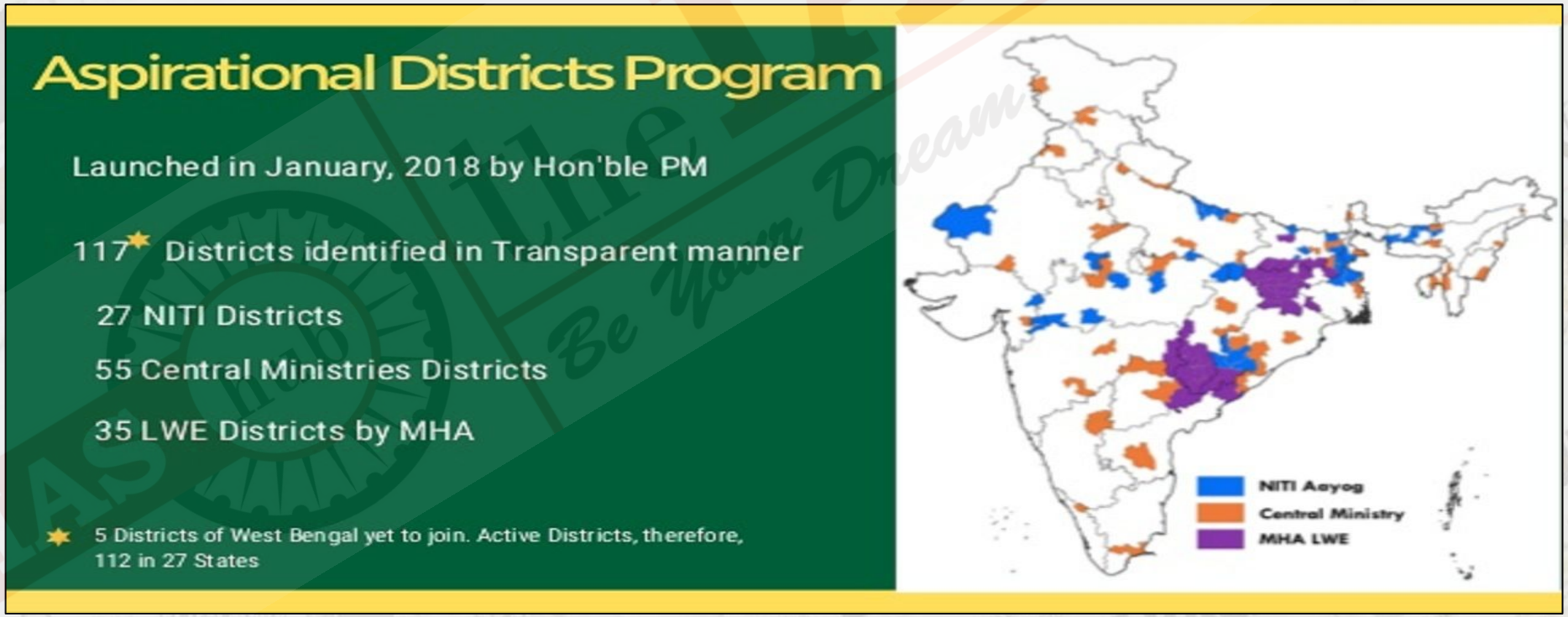
The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has expressed happiness after the success of Aspirational Districts program on parameters such as health, nutrition, education and exports.

The Prime Minister tweeted;

"The success of Aspirational Districts on various parameters - be it health, nutrition, education or exports - is heartening. Glad to see the lives of lakhs get transformed due to Aspirational Districts program."

Aspirational Districts Programme

- **Launched in 2018**
- **Aim:** to transform districts that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas.
- **Districts in India t**hat are affected by poor socio-economic indicators.
- **Objectives:** focuses on the strength of each district, identifying low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement and measuring progress by ranking districts on a monthly basis.



DST

August 18

Startups and Unicorns in India

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

India ranks globally 3rd in Start-Up ecosystem and also in terms of number of Unicorns: Dr Jitendra Singh

India ranks globally 3rd in Start-Up ecosystem and also in terms of number of Unicorns. As per the latest data, there are currently 105 unicorns, out of which 44 were born in 2021 and 19 in 2022.

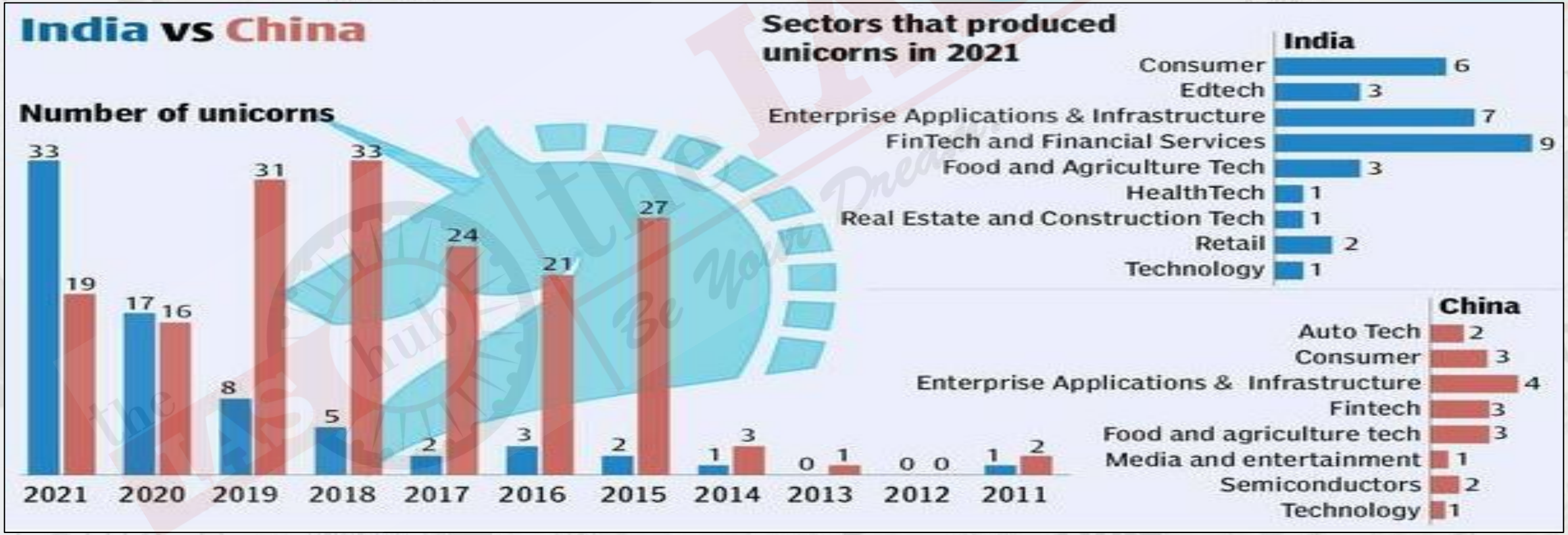
This was stated today by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh while delivering keynote address at "DST StartUp Utsav" at Dr Ambedkar International Centre here.

Unicorn

- **Any privately** owned firm with a market capitalization of more than USD 1 billion.
- **New entities** dedicated to offering creative solutions and new business models, among other things.

Startups and Unicorns in India

- India has become the 3rd largest start-up ecosystem in the world after the US and China.
- 44 Indian start-ups have achieved unicorn status in 2021 taking the overall tally of unicorns to 83, most of which are in the services sector.



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