

The net-zero goal



- The net-zero goal Net-zero, which is also referred to as carbon-neutrality, does not mean that a country would bring down its emissions to zero.
 - Rather, net-zero is a state in which a country's emissions are compensated by absorption and removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.
 - Absorption of the emissions can be increased by creating more carbon sinks such as forests, while removal of gases from the atmosphere requires futuristic technologies such as carbon capture and storage
- India is the only one opposing this target because it is likely to be the most impacted by it.
 - India's position is unique. Over the next two to three decades, India's emissions are likely to grow at the fastest pace in the world, as it presses for higher growth to pull hundreds of millions of people out of poverty.
 - No amount of afforestation or reforestation would be able to compensate for the increased emissions.
 - Most of the carbon removal technologies right now are either unreliable or very expensive

Government Securities Acquisition Programme (G-SAP)



- Reiterating the RBI's commitment to maintaining the current accommodative policy stance until the economy is back on track, the Governor enthused the markets with a new programme — Government Securities Acquisition Programme (G-SAP) — through which it will purchase government securities worth Rs 1 lakh crore in the first quarter of FY22.
- The RBI also announced that it will continue with a variable rate reverse repo to suck excess liquidity.
- While the 10-year G-Sec bond yields dropped 0.6% to 6.08 on Wednesday, the benchmark Sensex gained 0.9% to close at 49,661.7.
- G-SAP aims to provide more comfort to the bond market, market participants

- since liquidity is already in a large surplus, RBI will continue with variable rate reverse repos at the shorter
- Market participants say they have always wanted to know the RBI's Open Market Operations (OMO) purchase calendar, and the RBI has now provided that to the market through this announcement on GSAP.

Why RBI's Monetary Policy Committee kept rates unchanged



- The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to keep its short term lending rate or the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent, in line with market expectations.
- Announcing the monetary policy, RBI Governor said the central bank will maintain its 'accommodative stance' as long as required to sustain growth on a durable basis.
- The RBI maintained its GDP growth forecast at 10.5 per cent for 2021-22.
- RBI also announced a series of measures to inject liquidity in the government securities market and the financial system.
- RBI will ensure orderly conduct of government borrowing programme. In this respect, the central bank announced a secondary market government securities (G-sec) acquisition plan worth Rs 1 lakh crore for April-June.
- Amid the government plans to support a new asset reconstruction company being set up by banks, the RBI has decided to set up a committee to review the working of ARCs to ensure how better these entities can support the financial sector.
- In the policy review, the RBI decided to extend the RTGS and NEFT payments platforms to prepaid payment instruments, white label ATMs as well.

NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON HIGH EFFICIENCY SOLAR PV MODULES



- The Union Cabinet has approved the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy's proposal for implementation of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 'National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV (Photo Voltic) Modules' for achieving manufacturing capacity of Giga Watt
- Solar PV manufacturers will be selected through a transparent competitive bidding process.

- PLI will be disbursed for 5 years post commissioning of solar PV manufacturing plants, on sales of high efficiency solar PV modules.
- Additional 10,000 MW capacity of integrated solar PV manufacturing plants,
- Direct investment of around Rs.17,200 crore in solar PV manufacturing projects
- Demand of Rs.17,500 crore over 5 years for 'Balance of Materials',
- Direct employment of about 30,000 and Indirect employment of about 1,20,000 persons,
- Import substitution of around Rs.17,500 crore every year, and
- Impetus to Research & Development to achieve higher efficiency in solar PV modules.

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for White Goods (Air Conditioners and LED Lights)



- The PLI Scheme for White Goods shall extend an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales of goods manufactured in India for a period of five years to companies engaged in manufacturing of Air Conditioners and LED Lights.
- An entity availing benefits under any other PLI Scheme of Govt. India will not be eligible under this scheme for the same products but the entity may take benefits under other applicable schemes of Govt. of India or schemes of State governments.
- The Scheme will be implemented as a pan India scheme and is not specific to any location, area or segment of population.
- A number of global and domestic companies, including a number of MSMEs are likely to benefit from the Scheme.
- It is estimated that over the period of five years, the PLI Scheme will lead to incremental investment of Rs. 7,920 Crore, incremental Production worth Rs. 1,68,000 Crore, exports worth Rs 64,400 Crore, earn direct and indirect revenues of Rs 49,300 crore and create additional four lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities.

White goods

- A major appliance, also known as a large domestic appliance or large electric appliance is a non-portable or semi-portable machine used for routine housekeeping tasks such as cooking, washing laundry, or food preservation.
- Such appliances are sometimes collectively known as white goods, as the products were traditionally white in colour, although a variety of colours are now available.

Thee Film Certificate Appellate Tribunal (FCAT)



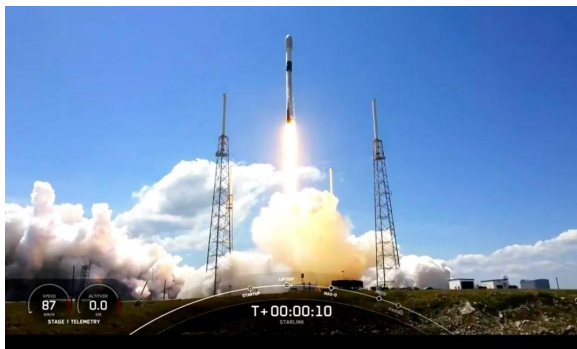
- The government by an ordinance abolished the Film Certificate Appellate Tribunal (FCAT), which heard appeals by filmmakers seeking certification for their films.
- The Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation And Conditions Of Service) Ordinance, 2021, which came into effect on April 4, amends the Cinematograph Act, 1952 by omitting some sections and replacing the word “Tribunal” with “High Court” in other sections.
- FCAT was a statutory body constituted set up by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in 1983, under Section 5D of the Cinematograph Act, 1952. Its main job was to hear appeals filed under Section 5C of the Cinematograph Act, by applicants for certification aggrieved by the decision of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).
- The tribunal was headed by a chairperson and had four other members, including a Secretary appointed by the Government of India to handle.
- The Tribunal was headquartered in New Delhi.
- In India, all films must have a CBFC certificate if they are to be released theatrically, telecast on television, or displayed publicly in anyway.
- The CBFC—which consists of a Chair person and 23 members, all appointed by the Government of India—certifies films under four categories:
- U: Unrestricted public exhibition (Suitable for all age groups) U/A: Parental guidance for children under age 12
- A: Restricted to adults (Suitable for 18 years and above) S: Restricted to a specialised group of people, such as engineers, doctors or scientists.
- The CBFC can also deny certification a film.
- On several occasions when a filmmaker or producer has not been satisfied with the CBFC’s certification, or with a denial, they have appealed to the FCAT. And in many cases, the FCAT has over turned the CBFC decision

RWANDA GENOCIDE



- In just 100 days in 1994, about 800,000 people were slaughtered in Rwanda by ethnic Hutu extremists.
- They were targeting members of the minority Tutsi community, as well as their political opponents, irrespective of their ethnic origin.
- The Rwandan genocide occurred between 7 April and 15 July 1994 during the Rwandan Civil War.
- During this period of around 100 days, members of the Tutsi minority ethnic group, as well as some moderate Hutu, were slaughtered by armed militias.
- The most widely accepted scholarly estimates are around 500,000 to 600,000 Tutsi deaths.
- In 1990, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), a rebel group composed of Tutsi refugees, invaded northern Rwanda from their base in Uganda, initiating the Rwandan Civil War.
- Neither side was able to gain a decisive advantage in the war, and the Rwandan government led by President Juvénal Habyarimana signed the Arusha Accords with the RPF or Rwanda Patriotic Front on 4 August 1993.
- Many historians argue that a genocide against the Tutsi had been planned for at least a year.
- However, Habyarimana's assassination on April 6 1994 created a power vacuum and ended peace accords. Genocidal killings began the following day when soldiers, police, and militia executed key Tutsi and moderate Hutu military and political leaders.

SpaceX launches 60 Starlink satellites, total 300 in a month



- SpaceX on Wednesday launched another batch of 60 Starlink satellites from Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- The Elon Musk-led space agency has now launched 300 satellites since March 4, with 60 satellites on each of the five flights between then and now.
- Earlier, SpaceX said that it aims to launch a total of 1,500 satellites in 2021 for its Starlink internet service.

DRDO Opens Up Missile Production For Indian Private Sector



- DRDO Opens Up Missile Production For Indian Private Sector In a bid to promote the domestic defense industry, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has allowed private sector firms to both develop and produce missile systems such as vertical launched surface to air missile systems programs.
- “Under the Development cum Production Partner (DCPP) program, we have allowed the private sector to co-develop missile systems with us and then also produce them
- The all-weather air defence missile system is being developed to provide point and area defence against various aerial targets like jets, fighter aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles.
- The canister-based state of art weapon system would be able to identify, track, engage and destroy the target with a high kill probability.
- It has a strike range of about 40 km.
- The DRDO has also helped private sector industry including Tata and Baba Kalyani industries to develop the ATAGS howitzer which is likely to be the main artillery gun for the Indian Army in the next many decades.

‘Aatmanirbharta’ in aerospace



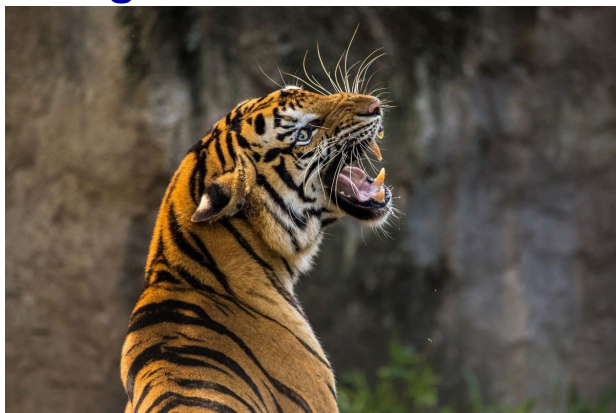
- The global aerospace market is of the order of \$342.4 billion and India is the third-largest domestic civil aviation market. India’s share in the global space economy is about \$366 billion of which India’s share is around 3%.
- This is the reason that the Government of India has introduced a slew of reforms in the space sector allowing private players to tap this market by building launch vehicles, satellites, and infrastructure to launch the satellites from the country.
- ‘Aatmanirbharta’ in aerospace will accelerate self-reliance in this sector and establish a culture of innovation and quality in this field.
- India is a significant power in aerospace.
- The empowerment of industries and ingenuity of the men and women in India has helped us to realise our current infrastructure from near-zero infrastructure.

Solar projects on water could come at a cost to the environment, alert experts



- To achieve the national goal of 100 GW solar capacity by 2022, various state governments have commissioned floating solar photovoltaics (floatovoltaics) projects in the recent past.
- While the cumulative capacity of in-operation floatovoltaic projects in India, as of 2019, was 2.7 MW, over 1.7 GW capacity projects were reported to be in various stages of development, according to a report by TERI.
- Ecologists and conservationists are concerned about the long-term impacts of largescale floatovoltaic projects on freshwater ecosystems.
- They caution that in absence of any reported data or studies available, these projects will lead to an irreparable loss of biodiversity.
- Floatovoltaics can trigger a chain of reactions in the water bodies, causing harm to aquatic life, leading to a shift in the ecology.
- According to a recent study by researchers in the U.K. and U.S.A, floatovoltaics might also interfere with interaction between the water body and the atmosphere, causing the occurrence of deep-water anoxia (absence of oxygen), resulting in the release of phosphorus from bed sediments.
- As a result of the reduced sunlight, floating solar plants can also cause large areas of uneven surface heating, lowering reservoir turnover efficiencies, and impacting plant growth in the littoral zone (near shore area where sunlight penetrates all the way to the bottom of the water body, allowing aquatic plants to grow).
- Experts say that the effect of solar panels on a water body is highly uncertain and will differ depending on the water body form and floatovoltaic's architecture.

Manas National Park's Tiger Team wins International Rangers Award



- The tireless efforts of rangers of Assam's Manas National Park to help conserve the tiger population has won special recognition at the 2021 IUCN-WCPA (International Union for Conservation of Nature – World Commission on Protected Areas) International Rangers Awards.

- The Manas Tiger Team, consisting of 12 members, has been bestowed with the special honour of 'Highly Commended' along with 18 other national parks from across the world during a virtual award ceremony on Wednesday.
- Ten rangers were recognised for their conservation efforts worldwide.
- These awards, developed through a collaboration between the IUCN WCPA, the International Ranger Federation, Global Wildlife Conservation, and Conservation Allies, aim to highlight and felicitate the extraordinary work that rangers do in protected and conserved areas worldwide.
- The National Park was in a concerning condition in the 1990s as the animal population had dwindled and poaching became rampant.
- In 2010, the tiger population was just 10, but with conservation efforts, the population went up to 30 in 2020
- In November 2020, Manas National Park (Manas Tiger Project) and Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan received the TX2 Conservation Excellence Award for 2020 by the Global Tiger Forum.
- TX2 stands for "Tigers times two", signalling the goal to double the population of wild tigers by 2022.