

USA becomes 101st member country of ISA



- The United States of America (USA) has joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as a member country.
- U.S is now the 101st country to sign the framework agreement of the ISA.
- The framework agreement was formally signed by John Kerry, the U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow.
- It demonstrates that nations across the world are recognising the economic and climate mitigating value of solar, as well as this energy source's potential as a catalyst for the global energy transition.

- The ISA's framework, which was first circulated in 2016 to obtain backing from other countries, emphasises on delivering local benefits to all countries through collaborations.
- The ISA's key interventions focus on enabling activities, risk mitigation and innovative financing instruments to facilitate the deployment of solar technologies.
- Earlier at COP26, the US joined the steering committee of the "One Sun One World One Grid" initiative that includes Australia, France, the UK and India.



Climate Change Performance Index: India ranked 10th



- India has been placed at 10th spot in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022 released by Germanwatch on the side-lines of the COP26.
- In 2020 also India was at 10th position. India has retained its position as the top 10 best-performing countries with higher climate performance for the third year in a row.
- Meanwhile, the top three places in the overall ranking is once again empty as none of the country performed well enough to achieve an overall very high rating in CCPI.
- Moving ahead, Denmark occupied a fourth place as the highest-ranked country in CCPI 2022, followed by Sweden (5th), and Norway (6th) respectively.
- Other countries in the top 10 are the United Kingdom (7th),
 Morocco (8th) and Chile (9th).

Cabinet approves to observe November 15 as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas



- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the declaration of November 15 as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.
- 15 November has been chosen as this date marks the birth anniversary of Sri Birsa Munda who is revered as Bhagwan (God) by tribal communities across the country.
- The Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is dedicated to the brave tribal freedom fighters and their sacrificed for the country.
- The day will be celebrated every year from now on to recognize the efforts of the tribals for the preservation of cultural heritage and promotion of Indian values of valour, hospitality and national pride.

NUTRITION SMART VILLAGE



- As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, to commemorate the 75th year of Independence of India a programme on "Nutrition Smart Village" will be initiated to strengthen the Poshan Abhiyan.
- This new initiative aims to reach out to 75 villages across India through the network of All India Coordinated Research Project on Women in Agriculture (AICRP-WIA) which is in operation at 13 centres in 12 States of India besides the coordinating institute located at Bhubaneswar.
- The initiative has been undertaken in line with the Prime Minister's call to all the academicians, agricultural scientists and all the institutions to adopt and transform 75 villages.

- Under the initiative, A total of 75 villages will be adopted by AICRP centres and ICAR-CIWA, for which the AICRP centres will adopt 5 villages each with the remaining to be adopted by ICAR-CIWA with an aim to develop 75 Nutri-Smart villages.
- The objectives of the initiative are promoting nutritional awareness, education and behavioural change in rural areas involving farm women and school children, harnessing traditional knowledge through the local recipe to overcome malnutrition and implementing nutritionsensitive agriculture through homestead agriculture and Nutri-garden



E-AMRIT PORTAL



- India launched 'E-Amrit', a web portal on electric vehicles (EVs), at the ongoing COP26 Summit in Glasgow, UK.
- E-Amrit is a one-stop destination for all information on electric vehicles—busting myths around the adoption of EVs, their purchase, investment opportunities, policies, subsidies, etc.
- The portal has been developed and hosted by NITI Aayog under a collaborative knowledge exchange programme with the UK government and as part of the UK-India Joint Roadmap 2030, signed by the Prime Ministers of the two countries.

- E-Amrit intends to complement initiatives of the government on raising awareness on EVs and sensitizing consumers on the benefits of switching to electric vehicles.
- In the recent past, India has taken many initiatives to accelerate the decarbonisation of transport and adoption of electric mobility in the country. Schemes such as FAME and PLI are especially important in creating an ecosystem for the early adoption of EVs.
- NITI Aayog intends to add more features and introduce innovative tools to make the portal more interactive and user-friendly.
- The launch was attended by UK High-Level Climate Action Jg A Champion Nigel Topping and NITI Aayog Adviser Sudhendu Jyoti Sinha.

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National Internet Exchange of India launches 'Digital Payment Gateway'.



- National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is a not-for-profit Company under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) with the mission to make the internet accessible to everyone.
- To facilitate its customers and partners, NIXI has gone digital by enabling digital payments across its three business units by integrating payment gateways on all its customer-facing websites for ease of use.
- This integration will lead to increased ease of use for NIXI's customers by offering real-time payments, providing uninterrupted services and ensuring seamless experience to all stakeholders.
- NIXI has partnered with PayU and NSDL to offer the Payment gateway services.