



Current Affairs of the Day

IPCC forecasts a future of severe weather

1. In the most ambitious emissions pathway, the projection is that the globe would reach the 1.5 degrees Celsius scenario in the 2030s, overshoot to 1.6 degrees Celsius, with temperatures dropping back down to 1.4 degrees Celsius at the end of the century. India has not yet committed to a net-zero timeline.
2. The Sixth Assessment Report has been finalised and approved by 234 authors and 195 governments and updates the scientific consensus on extreme weather, human attribution, the carbon budget, feedback cycles, and charts the future state of the climate since the Fifth Assessment Report of 2014.
3. The 3,000-plus-page report said warming is already accelerating sea-level rise and worsening extremes such as heatwaves, droughts, floods and storms.
4. Tropical cyclones are getting stronger and wetter, while Arctic Sea ice is dwindling in the summer and permafrost is thawing. All these trends will get worse, the report said
5. India is currently the world's third-largest greenhouse gas emitter, but per capita emissions are much lower. The U.S. emitted nearly nine times more greenhouse gases per capita than India in 2018.
6. Based on existing commitments by countries to curb their emission, the world is on track for global temperature warming by at least 2.7°C by 2100, predicts the report, calling it 'Code red for humanity'.

Glasgow:

The latest scientific assessment will influence discussions on the Conference of Parties meeting in Glasgow later this year where countries are expected to announce plans and steps they have taken to curb emissions.



PM sets out a framework for maritime security

A week into India's United Nations Security Council (UNSC) month-long presidency, Prime Minister chaired a debate on maritime security.

Enhancing Maritime Security

1. The UNSC adopted a 'Presidential [India's] Statement' which reaffirmed that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) establishes the legal framework for maritime activities.
2. Prime Minister Modi outlined a five-principle framework for the debate. The first was removing barriers to maritime trade. In this context, Mr Modi highlighted SAGAR ('Security and Growth for all in the Region') — a 2015 Indian framework for regional maritime security.
3. Second, Mr Modi said, maritime disputes "should be resolved peacefully and in accordance with international law," adding that this was "extremely important for promoting mutual trust and confidence, and ensuring global peace and stability",
4. Mr Modi underlining the need for maritime disputes to be resolved peacefully is presumably aimed at China's actions in the South China Sea, where it has militarized islands and unilaterally enforced its claims over disputed waters.
5. The third principle Mr Modi proposed is that countries jointly tackle maritime threats from non-state actors and natural disasters.
6. Fourth, he said the maritime environment and marine resources needed to be conserved, highlighting pollution from plastic waste and oil spills.
7. Fifth, Mr Modi called for responsible maritime connectivity, saying a structure was required to boost maritime trade, with the development of global norms and standards.

Glaciers will keep shrinking: IPCC report

1. Glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region will keep shrinking and the snow cover will retreat to higher altitudes, the latest IPCC report said.
2. The Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), approved by 195 member countries, warned that



extreme precipitation is projected to increase in major mountainous regions with potential cascading consequences of floods, landslides and lake outbursts in all scenarios.

3. Snow-covered areas and snow volumes will decrease during the 21st century, snowline elevations will rise and glacier mass is likely to decline with greater mass loss in higher greenhouse gas emission scenarios.
4. Rising temperatures and precipitation can increase the occurrence of glacial lake outburst floods and landslides over moraine-dammed lakes.
5. According to the report, mountain glaciers will continue to shrink and permafrost to thaw in all regions where they are present.

Parliament passes Bills on tribunal reforms, taxation

1. Parliament cleared three Bills to abolish several appellate tribunals, to end the retrospective tax on indirect transfer of Indian assets, and create a new Central University in Ladakh.
2. The first of the three Bills to be cleared, the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2021 would help in removing an extra layer of adjudication.
3. There were still some key flaws in the Bill, including the fact that short tenures of the members would ensure executive hold on the tribunals.
4. The government wants to remove certain tribunals, which will increase the burden of the High Courts.

₹11,000 crores for self-sufficiency in edible oil production: PM

1. The Centre will spend ₹11,000 crores on a new mission to ensure self-sufficiency in edible oil production at a time when India's dependence on expensive imports has driven retail oil prices to new highs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.
2. This financial outlay for the National Mission on Edible Oil-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) will be over a five-year period, Agriculture Ministry officials later said.



3. Today, when India is being recognised as a major agricultural exporting country, then it is not appropriate for us to depend on imports for our edible oil needs. The share of imported palm oil is more than 55%.
4. The thousands of crores that we have to give to others abroad to buy edible oil should be given to the farmers of the country only. PM named north-eastern India and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as prime locations for oil palm cultivation.

Rise in yield

1. The NMEO-OP's predecessor was the National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm, which was launched at the fag end of the UPA government's tenure and later merged with the National Food Security Mission.
2. Laying out its achievements in May 2020, the Agriculture Ministry said oilseed production had grown 35% from 27.5 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 37.3 million tonnes by 2020-21. Although oilseed acreage rose only 8.6% over that six-year period, yields rose more than 20%.

Govt. delaying Collegium recommendations, says SC

1. The Centre's delay, for months and years on end, to act on the recommendations of the Collegium and appoint judges to High Courts has affected the early adjudication of important cases, especially high-stake commercial issues, the Supreme Court lashed out in order.
2. The Delhi High Court will be with less than 50% judges in a week's time, having only 29 judges out of a strength of 60 judges.
3. The recommendations take months and years to reach the Collegium and thereafter months and years no decisions are taken post the Collegium. The judicial institution of the High Courts is manned by a number of judges where it will become almost impossible to have an early adjudication even on important issues.
4. The court said the government "must realise" that an adequate number of judges is a 'necessity' for early adjudication of commercial disputes. The order was passed in an appeal involving a government investigation arising from anti-dumping proceedings.



Australia signals democracies' trade swing from China to India

1. Australian special envoy and former Prime Minister Tony Abbott said a free trade agreement between his nation and India would signal the “democratic world’s tilt away from China.”
2. Mr Abbott visited New Delhi last week as Australia’s special trade envoy for India as the Australian government gives priority to seal a bilateral trade deal.
3. In an opinion piece likely to anger Beijing that that was published in The Australian newspaper, Mr Abbott said the “answer to almost every question about China is India.”
4. With the world’s other emerging superpower becoming more belligerent almost by the day, it’s in everyone’s interests that India take its rightful place among the nations as quickly as possible, Mr Abbott wrote.
5. “Because trade deals are about politics as much as economics, a swift deal between India and Australia would be an important sign of the democratic world’s tilt away from China, as well as boosting the long-term prosperity of both our countries,” Mr Abbott added.

‘Climate report must be the death knell for fossil fuels’

1. A bombshell climate science report “must sound a death knell” for coal, oil and gas, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, warning that fossil fuels were destroying the planet.
2. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that the 1.5 degrees Celsius temperature goal of the Paris Agreement would likely be breached around 2030 — a decade earlier than it itself projected just three years ago.
3. World leaders, green groups and influencers reacted to the “terrifying” UN climate science report with a mix of horror and hopefulness as the scale of the emergency dawned on many.
4. This moment requires world leaders, the private sector and individuals to act together with urgency and do everything it takes to protect our planet. We cannot delay ambitious climate action any longer.