



Current Affairs of the Day

Betting big on animation and gaming

India could become the content creation factory of the world, says I&B Secretary.

Highlights:

1. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC) sector in the country could become the content creation factory of the world.

AVGC TASK FORCE BUDGET 2022



2. The announcement on an AVGC Task Force in the Budget speech by Finance Minister was a momentous event that recognised the sector's importance and the role it played in creating employment.
3. The I&B Secretary noted that the sector had seen tremendous growth over the past seven years and, with proper impetus, could soon become a world leader.
4. The content creation part of gaming required high skills and the government wanted to focus on that through the task force. India could become the content creation factory of the world in the sector, he pointed out.
5. By 2030, the sector needed direct employment of at least 20-25 lakh people and there was a need to introduce children to the skills related to the sector at an early age. Rural India provided a fertile ground for talent for this sector.



A shot in the arm for electric vehicles

1. State-owned oil marketing companies have promised to install at least 22,000 charging stations for electric vehicles (EVs) in prominent cities and on national highways within the next year.
2. This is a crucial development because EV owners are worried about EV's capability to reach destinations before the battery runs out. India has 1,010,021 registered EVs, but there are only 1,640 public charging stations, according to transport ministry data.
3. Of these, the nine big cities account for some 940 stations. India wants 80% of all two-wheelers and 30% of all private cars to run on electricity by 2030. Expanding the charging station network is key for this.
4. There have been several positive developments on this front in the last few months. In January, the Union government formalised the practice of owners charging EVs at their residence or offices, using existing electricity connections and said that any individual/entity is free to set up public charging stations without a licence.
5. Recently, Delhi said that State-run offices will have to charge infrastructure and released EV charging guidelines for malls.
6. For India to reduce its transport emissions and ensure clean air, meet its climate goals, reduce its oil import bill, and bolster its manufacturing sector, it is important to expand the use of EVs.

Government of India to expand Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure across the nation

Efforts by government results in 2.5 times increase in charging stations in 9 mega cities in last four months

Additional installation of 678 public EV charging stations between October 2021 to January 2022 in these 9 cities

Currently 9 cities account for about 940 of India's 1640 public EV chargers

22,000 EV charging stations to be set up by Oil Marketing Companies across the country in prominent cities and highways



Electric scooters are leading EV adoption, but electric cars have less than 1% of total sales. One reason is the lack of affordable electric cars. In the next decade, reports project, the number of EVs on our roads will rise, and so readily accessible charging away from one's home (or workplace) will also be essential.

The Ministry of Power revised these guidelines and standards on January 14, 2022, with the following amendments:

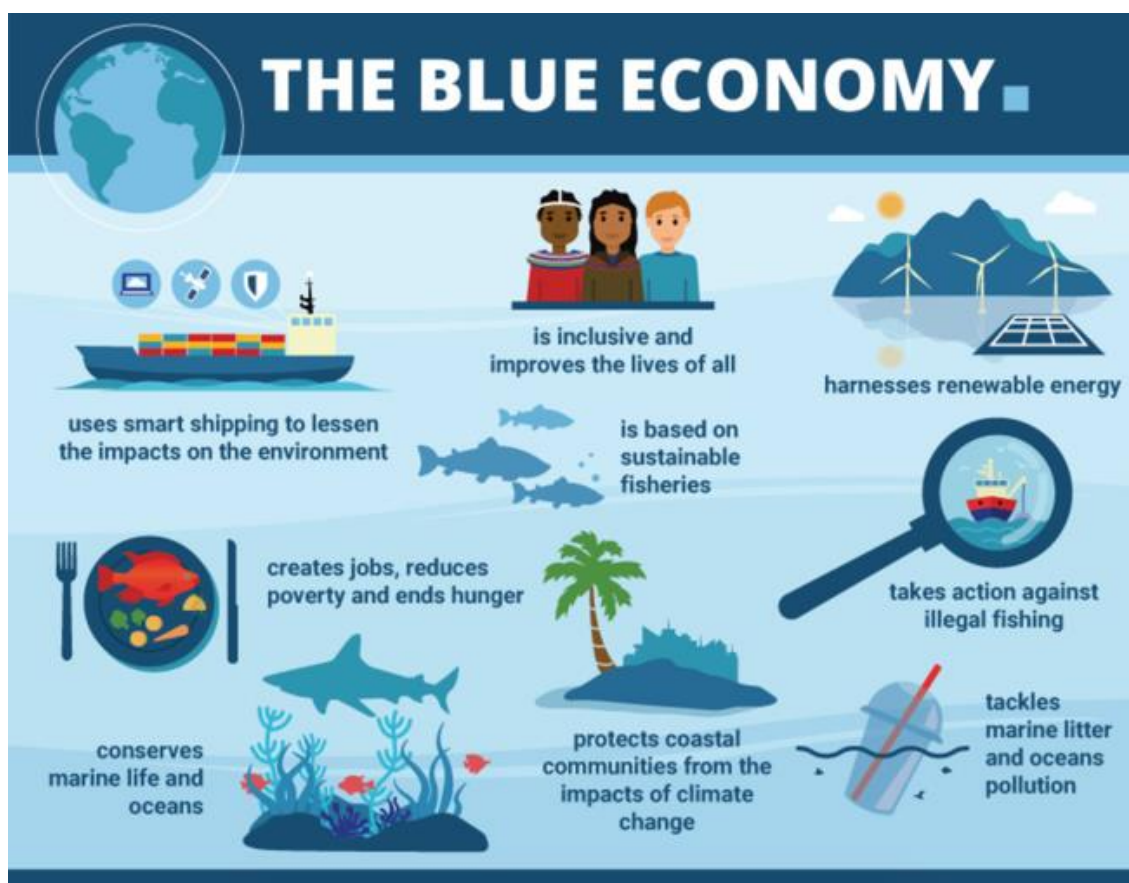
- To provide an affordable tariff chargeable by public EV charging station operators and owners and Electric Vehicle (EV) owners.
- Enable owners of electric vehicles to charge EVs at their residences or offices using their existing electricity connections.
- A revenue-sharing model has been suggested for land use to make a public charging station financially viable from an operational perspective.
- Timelines have been prescribed for providing connectivity to the Public Charging Station (PCS) for faster rollout of EV public charging.
- Technical requirements for public charging stations have been elaborated.

India and France adopt road map on 'blue economy', ocean governance

1. India and France have adopted a road map on the 'blue economy' and ocean governance to enhance partnership for the exploitation and preservation of marine resources through economic, infrastructure and scientific cooperation.
2. It is part of measures agreed on by the two countries to deepen the bilateral strategic partnership, especially in trade and investments, defence and security, health, education, research and innovation, energy and climate change.
3. France is among India's closest strategic partners in Europe, and the two sides are also working with other countries in areas such as critical technologies and supply chains.



4. The “India-France Roadmap on the Blue Economy and Ocean Governance” adopted by the two sides envisages enhancing partnership in the blue economy through institutional, economic, infrastructure and scientific cooperation.
5. The two ministers agreed to continue and enhance cooperation in sports and to soon conclude a joint declaration of intent in the area of sports to facilitate people-to-people contact.
6. They also agreed to strengthen long-standing cooperation on public administration and administrative reforms between the relevant authorities in India and France.





BLUE ECONOMY

The Blue Economy is sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, and ocean ecosystem health.

The Blue Economy encompasses many activities...

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Sustainable marine energy can play a vital role in social and economic development.

FISHERIES

Marine fisheries contribute more than **US\$270 billion** annually to global GDP. More sustainable fisheries can generate more revenue, more fish and help restore fish stocks.

MARITIME TRANSPORT

Over **80% of international goods** traded are transported by sea, and the volume of seaborne trade is expected to double by 2030 and quadruple by 2050.

TOURISM

Ocean and coastal tourism can bring jobs and economic growth. Coastal Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States receive more than **41 million visitors** per year.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The impacts of climate change on oceans—rising sea-levels, coastal erosion, changing ocean current patterns, and acidification—are staggering. At the same time, **oceans are an important carbon sink** and help mitigate climate change.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

80% of litter in the ocean is from land-based sources. Better waste management on land can help oceans recover.

To learn about other aspects of the blue economy, visit www.worldbank.org/oceans

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<h2 style="margin: 0;">MAINS DAWP</h2>	<p style="color: red;">Q1. India and France have adopted a road map on the ‘blue economy’ and ocean governance to enhance partnership for the exploitation and preservation of marine resources through economic, infrastructure and scientific cooperation. Comment on the importance of Blue Economy for Sustainable development of India.</p> <p style="color: red;">Q2. Critically discuss the unique Indian potential, opportunities and challenges in the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC) sector.</p>
<h2 style="margin: 0;">MCQs</h2>	<p style="color: red;">Q1. Anoop Satpathy Committee is linked to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="color: red;">a. Poverty line estimation <li style="color: red;">b. Minimum wages estimation <li style="color: red;">c. Minimum Support Prices (MSP) reforms <li style="color: red;">d. Special Economic Zones