



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

NOVEMBER, 2022

Week-3

15-21 Nov., 2022

★★ Useful for ★★

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Services Exams,
SSC and Banking Exams**

15th NOVEMBER, 2022

UGC new regulations on PhD degrees

- **Context:** The University Grants Commission (UGC) recently announced new regulations on PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) degrees called "University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of PhD Degree) Regulations, 2022".

Key Highlights

- These rules will replace the rules notified in 2016.
- Under the new rules, students who have completed a four-year undergraduate course will be eligible for direct admission to a doctorate programme.
- Candidates should have a minimum of 75 per cent marks in "aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed".
- In case the candidate does not have 75 per cent marks in a four-year undergraduate program, she has to pursue a one-year master's programme and score at least 55 per cent.
- The new Rules discontinue the M.Phil programme altogether. However, that will have no bearing on those holding or pursuing M.Phil degrees currently.
- Universities and colleges will be free to admit students through the NET (National Eligibility Test)/JRF (Junior Research Fellowship) qualification route as well as entrance exams at the level of the institutions.
- Entrance requirements for the new EWS (Economically Weaker Section) category have been relaxed by 5 per cent.
- UGC has introduced a new requirement for PhD scholars, irrespective of discipline, to train in teaching / education/ pedagogy/ writing related to their chosen subject during their doctoral period. They may also be assigned four to six hours per week of teaching/ research assistantship for conducting tutorial or laboratory work and evaluations.
- It is no longer required to publish research articles in peer-reviewed publications or present in conferences.

- Working professionals can now enroll in part-time PhD programmes. The institute will require a "No Objection Certificate (NOC)" from the appropriate authority in the organization where the candidate is employed.

Uplinking and Downlinking of Satellite Television Channels

- **Context:** The government has disclosed the revised guidelines of uplinking and downlinking for satellite television channels.

Key Highlights

- The guidelines allows Indian teleports to uplink foreign channels and scraps permission for live telecast of events.
- It makes it mandatory for television channels to telecast content in national and public interest for 30 minutes every day.
- The new guidelines have done away with permissions for live telecast of events. However, prior registration of events to be telecast live would be necessary.
- The guidelines also allow a channel to be uplinked using facilities of more than one teleport/satellite as against only one teleport/satellite at present.
- The guidelines also make it mandatory for channels uplinking in frequency bands other than C-Band to encrypt their signals.

State of the Climate in Asia Report, 2021

- **Context:** The World Meteorological Department (WMO) recently released its State of Climate in Asia 2021 report.

Key Highlights

- The report produced jointly with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), was presented during the UN climate change negotiations, COP27, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

- The report revealed that last year alone, weather and water-related hazards caused a total damage of \$ 35.6 billion across the continent, affecting nearly 50 million people.
- Last year, there were a total of more than 100 natural hazard events in Asia, of which 80% were flood and storm events. These resulted in almost 4,000 fatalities, about 80% caused by flooding. Overall, 48.3 million people were directly affected by these hazards, causing total economic damage of US\$ 35.6 billion.
- Flooding caused the highest economic losses in China (\$ 18.4 billion), followed by India (\$ 3.2 billion), and Thailand (\$ 0.6 billion).
- Storms also caused significant economic damage, especially in India (\$ 4.4 billion), China (\$ 3.0 billion), and Japan (\$ 2 billion).
- The report highlighted how the climate crisis is exacerbating food insecurity and poverty.
- Most glaciers in the High-Mountain Asia region, particularly in the south-eastern Tibetan Plateau, eastern Himalayas and Pamir Alai, suffered intense mass losses as the result of exceptionally warm and dry conditions in 2021, the report said.
- In 2021, the largest relative precipitation deficit was observed in West Asia, including, in particular, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Arabian Peninsula.
- The largest absolute precipitation excesses, with reference to the 1981–2010 climate normal, were observed along the west coasts of India and Myanmar, in the eastern Himalayas and on the North China Plain.
- The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Asia-Pacific Disaster Reports 2021 and 2022, referred by WMO in its report, estimate that in Asia, the annual investment in adaptation would need to be highest for China, at \$ 188.8 billion, followed by India at \$ 46.3 billion, and Japan at \$ 26.5 billion. As a percentage of the country's GDP, the highest cost is estimated for Nepal, at 1.9%, followed by Cambodia at 1.8%, and India at 1.7%.

16th NOVEMBER, 2022

Exercise Sea Vigil, 2022

- **Context:** To enhance India's maritime security, India conducted the third edition of the Sea Vigil maritime exercise. The two-day long multi-exercise covered the 7,516 km-long coastline of the country.

Key Highlights:

- It is the Third edition of India's largest coastal defence exercise, Sea Vigil 2022.
- Along with covering India's coastline, the exercise also took place in the exclusive economic zone. With the collaborative participation of the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Customs department, and other maritime agencies, Sea Vigil helped in validating the maritime security mechanism.
- The first edition of the Sea Vigil Exercise was held in 2019. The scale and conceptual expanse of the 'Sea Vigil' exercise is "unprecedented" in terms of the geographical extent, the number of stakeholders involved, the number of units participating and the objectives to be met.
- Sea Vigil also helped in preparing for the major Theatre Level Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX), which the Indian Navy conducts every two years. The two exercises, Sea Vigil and TROPEX, together covered the spectrum of maritime security challenges.
- Exercise Sea Vigil-2022 provided an opportunity, at the apex level, to evaluate India's maritime preparedness for any kind of invasion or terrorist attack done in the domain of Maritime Security and Coastal Defence. It also provided a realistic insight of India's strengths and weaknesses to ensure further strengthening of maritime and national security.

G20 Summit, 2022

- **Context:** The Annual G20 Summit held recently in Bali, Indonesia with world leaders discussed over for two days challenges triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and more recently topped by Russia's war in Ukraine.

Key Highlights:

- Under the Indonesian Presidency, the G20 in 2022 focused on the theme, 'Recover Together, Recover Stronger'.
- The Leaders' Summit is the climax of the G20 process and the intense work carried out over the year through Ministerial Meetings, Working Groups, and Engagement Groups.
- Recognizing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on every aspect of society and many countries' lack of capacity to address the crisis, the Indonesian Presidency focused on three main pillars for its G20 2022 Presidency:
 1. global health architecture;
 2. sustainable energy transition; and
 3. digital transformation.
- Through these pillars, Indonesia aims to continue leading on ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development through participation of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and digital economy.

About G20

- The G20 is made up of 19 countries and the European Union.
- The 19 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, and the US.

17th NOVEMBER, 2022

Global Shield Against Climate Risks initiative

- **Context:** The Global Shield Against Climate Risks initiative was launched by the Vulnerable Twenty (V20) countries and G7 countries.

Key Highlights

- The World Bank Group has announced a Global Shield Financing Facility, a joint initiative launched at COP27 by the G7 and Vulnerable Twenty (V20) to better protect poor and vulnerable people from disasters by pre-arranging more financing before disasters strike.
- This facility will support the Global Shield Against Climate Risks.
- The Global Shield Financing Facility will channel grants to developing countries through World Bank projects or through projects prepared by other participating partners, including UN agencies and multilateral development banks.
- It will also work closely with key stakeholders, such as civil society organizations, risk pools, private sector and humanitarian partners.
- The Global Shield Financing Facility will finance integrated financial protection packages that offer coordinated and consolidated financial support to those vulnerable to climate shocks and disasters.
- These financial packages will complement investments in climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Such packages will also enable and mobilize private capital for improved financial resilience, by offering private financial solutions, including insurance and other risk transfer instruments such as catastrophe bonds.
- The Global Shield Financing Facility builds on the earlier Global Risk Financing Facility, established in 2018, which has supported country operations in Africa, Asia, and Small Island Developing
- The program has been paired with \$3 billion in World Bank lending and helped to mobilize more than \$1bn in private sector capital.
- The World Bank Will provide concrete advisory and financial support to client countries to improve financial protection of poor vulnerable people and to actively contribute to the collective efforts to make the global risk finance architecture more impactful.

Implementation

- The initiative will be implemented in a way that aligns with the vulnerable country's financial and economic strategies so that the financing gaps are removed.
- Pakistan, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Fiji, Senegal, Philippines and Ghana will be the first to receive assistance under this initiative.
- The initial contributions for this initiative are provided by Germany, Denmark, Ireland and Canada.
- The US, which is also part of this initiative, is providing funding for the African Risk Capacity – an insurance and disaster risk solutions company.
- Other countries like the UK and the international organizations like the UNDP and the UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction are also backing this initiative.

Indonesia Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP)

- **Context:** Indonesia in partnership with the US, Japan and other G7 countries launched the Just Energy Transition Partnership.

Key Highlights

- The new Indonesia Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) will mobilize \$20 billion over the next three to five years to accelerate a just energy transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy in Indonesia.
- The Indonesia Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), more than a year in the making, "is probably the single largest climate finance transaction or partnership ever".
- The Indonesia JETP is based on last year's \$8.5 billion initiative to help South Africa more quickly decarbonise its power sector that was launched at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow by the United States, Britain and European Union.
- To access the programme's \$20 billion worth of grants and concessional loans over a three- to five-year period, Indonesia has committed to capping power sector emissions at 290 million tonnes by

2030, with a peak that year. The public and private sectors have pledged about half of the funds each.

- Indonesia has also set a goal to reach net-zero emissions in its power sector by 2050, a decade before its current target in its national climate plan, and to double the pace of renewable energy deployment so that it accounts for at least 34% of all power generation by 2030.
- The plan will eliminate 300 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions through 2030 and a reduction of well over 2 billion tonnes through 2060, the partners said in their statement.
- The United States and Japan are co-leading the effort with Indonesia on behalf of the other G7 democracies Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, as well as partners Norway, Denmark and the European Union.
- Multilateral development banks and the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) will account for about a third of the \$10 billion in public funding for Indonesia's JETP.
- CIF has allocated about \$500 million to aid Indonesia's energy transition.

Climate Change Performance Index 2023

- **Context:** Climate Change Performance Index 2023 was released jointly by Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute and Climate Action Network.

Key Highlights

- India climbed two spots to bag 8th position out of 63 in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2023.
- The jump can be attributed to India's low emissions and the increasing use of renewable energy.
- The report leaves the first three places empty as "no country performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating". It puts Denmark in fourth place, followed by Sweden and Chile.

- China, which is the world's biggest polluter now, fell 13 places to 51st in this year's CCPI and received an overall very-low rating due to plans for new coal-fired power plants.
- The US rose by three ranks to the 52nd place. Iran (63rd), Saudi Arabia (62nd) and Kazakhstan (61st) fared the worst.
- India earned a high rating in the GHG Emissions and Energy Use categories, while it got a medium rating in Climate Policy and Renewable Energy sections.
- Despite India's medium rating in the Renewable Energy category, the country has included renewables targets in its updated NDC. Yet, the experts cite missing roadmaps and concrete action plans for achieving the targets.
- The report noted that India is among the nine countries responsible for 90 per cent of global coal production and it also plans to increase its oil, gas, and oil production by over 5 per cent by 2030.
- The report said India is "on track" to meet its 2030 emissions targets, compatible with a well-below 2-degree-Celsius scenario. "However, the renewable energy pathway is not on track for the 2030 target," as per report.

India's Nationally Determined Goals

- Since the last CCPI, India has updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and announced a net-zero target for 2070. Net zero means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gasses put into the atmosphere and those taken out.
- The NDCs are national plans to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius in accordance with the Paris Agreement.
- In August, India released its updated NDCs and now stands committed to reducing emissions intensity of its GDP by 45 percent of GDP by 2030 from the 2005 level.
- It aims to achieve about 50 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030. These NDCs

are, however, contingent on delivery of finance and technology transfer.

About CCPI

- The report was published by three environmental non-governmental organizations that track climate performance of the European Union and 59 countries, which together account for over 92 per cent of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the world.
- The rankings by Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute and the Climate Action Network are based on how well the countries are doing to halve their emissions by 2030 -- an essential aspect to keep the 1.5-degree Celsius goal within reach and prevent dangerous climate change.

18th NOVEMBER, 2022

National Anti-profiteering Authority

- **Context:** Government of India has decided to abolish the National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) from 1 December 2022 as its terms come to an end on 30 November 2022.

Key Highlights

- From 1 December 2022 the Goods & Services Tax (GST) anti-profiteering complaints would be dealt with by the Completion Commission of India (CCI).
- National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) is the anti-profiteering watchdog of GST and it is all set to be subsumed into the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- NAA's role is to make sure that the benefit of tax rate reduction reaches the consumer immediately.
- This has been the role of NAA primarily because the GST council has been reigning the rates in the last five years. NAA has little to do when rates go up.
- Authorities are still receiving several complaints about the early years of GST, saying that the benefit of the input tax credit has not been fully passed on to consumers.

- Sectors like eateries, cinemas, real estate, fast-moving consumer goods, etc., have faced NAA's scrutiny the most. In many cases, the regulator ordered the business to return the allegedly overcharged amounts to the consumer.

Ramayana, Mahabharata circuits under New Tourism Policy

- **Context:** To foster the state's religious potential and also establish the state as the hub of religious and spiritual tourism in the country, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet gave approval to the New Tourism Policy.

Key Highlights:

- The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the New Tourism Policy to foster the state's religious potential and also establish the state as the hub of religious and spiritual tourism in the country. The state under the policy will develop separate religious circuits.
- As per the vision, the places associated with Lord Rama will be developed as the Ramayana Circuit and religious places associated with Lord Krishna as Krishna Circuit.
- State Cabinet Minister AK Sharma informed about the new tourism policy and development of new areas informed that Ayodhya, Chitrakoot, Bithoor, and other places of significance during the Ramayana period will be included in the Ramayana circuit.
- Mathura, Vrindavan, Gokul, Govardhan, Barsana, Nandgaon, and Baldev will be included in the Krishna circuit while the Buddhist circuit will include Kapilvastu, Sarnath, Kushinagar, Kaushambi, Shravasti, Ramgram, and other places.

Sandhya Devanathan

- **Context:** Facebook-parent Meta has appointed Sandhya Devanathan as its new top executive for the country two weeks after the departure of former India head Ajit Mohan.



Key Highlights

- Devanathan will transition to her new role on 1 January 2023.
- In her new role, Sandhya Devanathan will report to Dan Neary, vice president of Meta's overall APAC business.
- Devanathan served as the country managing director for Singapore and business head for Vietnam.
- Devanathan's appointment follows high-profile exits from the company's India ventures.
- On 3rd November 2022, Meta announced the departure of erstwhile country head, Ajit Mohan, with immediate effect.

19th NOVEMBER, 2022

ASEAN

- **Context:** The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has agreed in principle to admit East Timor as the group's 11th member.

Key Highlights

- The half-island nation, officially called Timor Leste, will also be granted observer status at high-level ASEAN meetings.
- The country would be the first new member of the regional grouping in more than two decades, since Cambodia was admitted in 1999.
- However, it might take years for East Timor to gain full ASEAN membership.
- East Timor President Jose Ramos-Horta welcomed the decision, saying a membership would open up his country to wider diplomatic relations with ASEAN's partners, potentially more foreign direct investment, as well as give Timorese wider travel access within the region.
- The East Timor people voted for independence from a brutal occupation by neighboring Indonesia in a 1999 U.N.-supervised referendum, and the country was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2002, making it Asia's youngest democracy.

- The resource-rich country has a population of 1.3 million people.
- The process of accession to ASEAN was started immediately once the country was recognised, but it formally applied for membership in 2011.

Paris Peace Forum

- **Context:** The fifth edition of the Paris Peace Forum started with the theme of "Riding out the multi-crisis".

Key Highlights

- The Forum is set to focus on how to overcome the socio-economic impact of multiple crises, develop international cooperation on major issues, support multilateralism and improve global cooperation mechanisms.
- French President Emmanuel Macron and Argentine President Alberto Fernandez called for a negotiated solution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Xinhua news agency reported.
- Fernandez said that the conflict has a global impact, not only causing an energy crisis in Europe, but also threatening the food security of countries in the southern hemisphere.
- During the two-day forum, participants including heads of international organizations, NGOs, multinational companies and financial institutions will exchange views on global governance.
- Topics will include the impact of multiple crises on people, rethinking globalization, promoting climate and environmental solutions, and building a more ethical and safe digital world.
- The Paris Peace Forum, initiated by Macron to promote multilateral cooperation and address global challenges, had its first edition in 2018.

Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy

- **Context:** India submitted its Long-Term Low Emission Development (LT-LED) Strategy to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at COP 27.

Key Highlights

- The strategy is prepared after extensive consultations held by the Environment ministry with all relevant ministries and departments, state governments, research institutions and civil society organizations.
- The strategy will focus on rational utilization of national resources with due regard to energy security.
- The transitions from fossil fuels will be undertaken in a just, smooth, sustainable and all-inclusive manner through following strategies:
 - **Use of Biofuels:** The strategy will promote increased use of biofuels, especially ethanol blending in petrol and the increased use of green hydrogen fuel is expected to drive the low carbon development of the transport sector.
 - **Low carbon vehicle:** India aspires to maximize the use of electric vehicles, ethanol blending to reach 20% by 2025, and a strong modal shift to public transport for passenger and freight.
 - **Climate resilient cities:** Low base, future sustainable and climate resilient urban development will be driven by smart city initiatives, integrated planning of cities for mainstreaming adaptation and enhancing energy and resource efficiency, effective green building codes and rapid developments in innovative solid and liquid waste management.
 - **Long-term low-carbon development strategy:** The two themes of climate justice and sustainable lifestyles, alongside the principles of Equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), in the light of national circumstances, are at the heart of the low-carbon, low-emissions future.
 - **LiFE-The LT:** LEDS is also informed by the vision of LiFE, Lifestyle for the Environment, that calls for a world-wide paradigm shift from mindless and destructive consumption to mindful and deliberate utilization.

20th NOVEMBER, 2022

India's first multi-modal logistics park

- **Context:** Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is going to develop India's first multi-modal logistics park (MMLP).

Key Highlights

- According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has been awarded the project to build India's first multimodal logistics park (MMLP).
- The MMLP will be set up in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- MMLP will be spread over 184 acres and cost Rs 1,424 crore.
- The project will get adequate connecting infrastructure support through a special purpose vehicle (SPV) formed between central and state agencies.
- The Centre expects the first phase of the project to be completed in two years.
- The project falls under the high-priority list of projects inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the Centre's project monitoring system. It is one of the several flagship projects announced under the Bharatmala Project of MoRTH, which envisions the building of 35 such MMLPs.
- The Centre plans to build 15 of these within the next two years. Under the National Logistics Policy (NLP) and PM-GatiShakti, it wants to bring down logistics costs to under 10 percent of the GDP in a bid to make exports competitive and supply chains more efficient.

Global Vaccine Market Report, 2022

- **Context:** Global Vaccine Market Report 2022 was released recently by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Key Highlights

- WHO's Global Vaccine Market Report 2022, shows that inequitable distribution is not unique to COVID-19 vaccines, with poorer countries consistently

struggling to access vaccines that are in-demand by wealthier countries.

- This is the first report to capture the implications of COVID-19 for vaccine markets.
- Lower-income countries have struggled to access critical vaccines – such as against COVID-19 in 2021 and cervical cancer vaccine – that are in-demand by wealthier countries.
- Some regions depend almost entirely on others for vaccine supply.
- Limited vaccine supply and unequal distribution drive global disparities. The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine against cervical cancer has only been introduced in 41% of low-income countries, even though they represent much of the disease burden, compared to 83% of high-income countries.
- Affordability is also an obstacle to vaccine access. While prices tend to be tiered by income, price disparities see middle-income countries paying as much – or even more – than wealthier ones for several vaccine products.
- Approximately 16 billion vaccine doses, worth US\$ 141 billion, were supplied in 2021, almost three times the 2019 market volume (5.8 billion) and nearly three-and-a-half times the 2019 market value (US\$ 38 billion).
- Although manufacturing capacity worldwide has increased, it remains highly concentrated. Ten manufacturers alone provide 70% of vaccine doses (excluding COVID-19).
- This concentrated manufacturing base leads to risk of shortages as well as regional supply insecurity. In 2021, the African and Eastern Mediterranean regions were dependent on manufacturers headquartered elsewhere for 90% of their procured vaccines.
- Entrenched intellectual property monopolies and limited technology transfer further limit the ability of building and using local manufacturing capacity.
- The report highlights the opportunities for more alignment of vaccine development, production and distribution with a public health agenda, towards achieving the IMMUNIZATION AGENDA 2030.

- To drive ambitious action to deliver equitable access to vaccines, the report calls on governments to act on: clear immunization plans and more aggressive investment and stronger oversight of vaccine development, production and distribution; regional research and manufacturing hubs; and pre-agreeing rules for government collaboration in times of scarcity on issues such as vaccine distribution, intellectual property and the circulation of inputs and goods.
- India's position was reiterated that all countries will have to agree on one common definition of 'terrorism' and 'terror financing', adding that it "should not become a political issue."
- India offered to establish a permanent secretariat for NMFT in the country.

21st NOVEMBER, 2022

'No Money For Terror' Conference

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently addressed the 'No Money for Terror' (NMFT) Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing.

Key Highlights

- The two-day conference offered a unique platform for participating nations and organisations to deliberate on the effectiveness of the current international regime on Counter Terrorism Financing and the steps required to address emerging challenges.
- It was attended by about 450 delegates from across the world, including Ministers, Heads of Multilateral organizations and Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Heads of Delegations.
- During the Conference, deliberations held in four sessions which focus on 'Global Trends in Terrorism and Terrorist Financing', 'Use of Formal and Informal Channels of Funds for Terrorism', 'Emerging Technologies and Terrorist Financing' and 'International Co-operation to Address Challenges in Combating Terrorist Financing'
- Addressing the 'No Money for Terror' conference in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for penalising countries supporting terrorism as part of their foreign policy.

Vice-President attended FIFA world cup opening in Qatar

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar visited Doha at the invitation of Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar

Key highlights:

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has joined the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and other dignitaries in the inauguration of FIFA World Cup in Qatar.
- Vice President was in Doha for a two-day visit to represent India at the inauguration of FIFA's showpiece event.
- Besides attending the inaugural ceremony of the Football World Cup, the Vice President also interacted with members of the Indian community during the visit.
- The 60,000-capacity Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor hosts the opening ceremony on 20 November 2022 just before the first match between host Qatar and Ecuador.

Goldman Sachs slashes India's GDP forecast for 2023 to 5.9%

- **Context:** The Indian economy which claimed the title of the fastest-growing major economy title in the previous fiscal is likely to lose its momentum in 2023 owing to higher borrowing costs and fading benefits from the COVID-19 pandemic reopening, according to Goldman Sachs in a note.

Key Highlights

- Nomura expects India's GDP growth to slow from 7.2% y-o-y in 2022 to a below-consensus 4.7% in 2023.
- Goldman Sachs Group Inc. sees India's economic growth slowing next year, citing a hit to consumer demand from higher borrowing costs and fading benefits from pandemic reopening, while lowering its growth forecast. Gross domestic product (GDP) may expand by 5.9% in calendar year 2023 from an estimated 6.9% this year.
- India's export growth fell sharply in October.
- It contracted 16.7% annually from 4.8% growth. September. This indicates a decrease in global demand.
- India's exports saw a contraction for the first time in the post-pandemic phase and the last time exports contracted was back in February 2021.

Jal Jeevan Mission

- **Context:** Shahjahanpur has become number one in the country in giving maximum number of tap connections in a month. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, Shahjahanpur has created history in providing tap connections to every household in rural areas.



Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

Key Highlights:

- According to the data given on the website of Jal Jeevan Mission, Bulandshahr, Bareilly, Mirzapur have also got a place in this survey. This achievement is being considered as a big leap in the matter of rural drinking water supply. In this survey, districts are selected across the country on the basis of the progress of the scheme.
- The names of Shahjahanpur, Bulandshahr and Bareilly have been registered among the best performing districts of UP in October.
- In the ranking of districts, Shahjahanpur topped the best performing category by scoring 689990 marks.
- Bulandshahr is second by scoring 657180 marks and Bareilly is third in this category by scoring 619114 marks.

