

NEWS TODAY

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC) PUBLISHED ITS SYNTHESIS REPORT (SYR)

- **SYR is the culmination of a cycle of reports** of the IPCC's 6th Assessment Cycle that have been published over the past five years.

➤ Its **aim is to provide policymakers** up-to-date understanding of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and **highlight solutions to address it**.

• Key Findings

➤ **Excess emissions from human activities** have raised global temperature by 1.1°C above 1850-1900.

➤ **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)** announced by countries make it likely that warming **will exceed 1.5°C during the 21st century**.

➤ For **every 1000 GtCO₂** emitted by human activity, global surface temperature **rises by 0.45°C** (best estimate, with a likely range from 0.27 to 0.63°C).

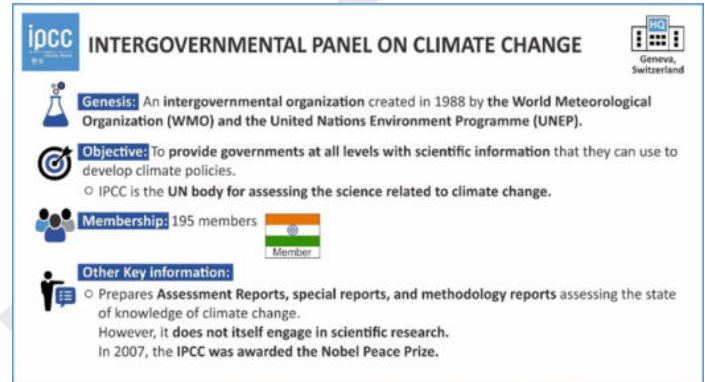
• Recommendations

➤ **Deep systemic changes are needed** across all economic sectors to reduce emissions. Some steps include:

- Widespread electrification
- Diversifying energy generation to include more wind, solar, and small-scale hydropower.
- Conserving and restoring forests while also reducing tropical deforestation.

➤ **Adaptation and mitigation actions**, that prioritise equity, social justice, climate justice, rights-based approaches, and inclusivity, lead to more sustainable outcomes.

➤ **Accelerated financial support for developing countries** from developed countries is a critical enabler, with a greater focus needed on public grant-based finance.



GROUNDWATER: A VALUABLE BUT DIMINISHING RESOURCE REPORT RELEASED BY STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

- Report highlighted that India is now the top groundwater extractor in the world, accounting for **25% of the worldwide total**.

➤ Ground water provides for 67 % of irrigation needs and 80 % of drinking water needs of the country.

• Key highlights

➤ About 14% of India's 7,089 groundwater assessment units have been categorised as over-exploited, while another 4% fall in the critical category.

- There is an **overall decrease in the number of over-exploited assessment units** (15.99 %) of India in 2020 as compared to last assessment in 2017 (17.23 %).

➤ **Unregulated usage of Groundwater** through subsidised electricity and cultivation of high water intensive crops.

➤ **Inadequate funds and lack of functional autonomy to National Water Mission.**

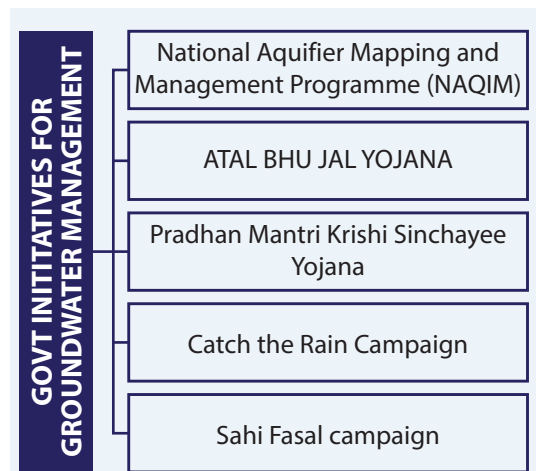
• Recommendations

➤ Centre to **provide assistance to the States** through various schemes/programmes for managing Groundwater.

➤ To **enable all the States to enact Groundwater Legislation** based on the Model bill proposed by the Ministry of Jal Sakti.

➤ To **amend the India Easement Act, 1882** which provides the landowner the right to utilise the water underground and treat it as a community resource.

➤ To **induce Community participation** in Ground Water management.



PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS SUBMITTED REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PMAY-U

● **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U)** was launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in 2015** to provide **affordable housing to the urban poor**.

● Key Observations

➤ Total housing shortage initially envisaged to be addressed through four verticals (Refer infographic) of Scheme was **around 2 cr.**

■ However, **actual validated demand** under the scheme stands at 1.23 crore only.

➤ **60% of total houses sanctioned** were under BLC vertical.

➤ Under ISSR vertical, only 4.33 lakh houses were sanctioned.

● Recommendations

➤ Conduct an **impact assessment study** to find out ground realities i.e. its benefits, gaps and shortcomings.

➤ Explore feasibility of **either extending existing schemes** with modifications or **formulate another such scheme** to achieve the objective of "Housing for All".

➤ Houses should be sanctioned in **all verticals evenly**.

➤ Ensure that beneficiaries are not left out because of **lack of financial capacity** to pay one's share.

➤ Nodal agency should show **results in terms of outcome**, that is, the number of houses **actually occupied** rather than output in terms of houses completed.

➤ **Ascertain quality of construction** at all the projects by a Third Party Quality Assessment team.

FOUR VERTICALS OF PMAY-U

In-situ Slum Rehabilitation (ISSR)

Beneficiary Linked Construction (BLC)

Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS)

Affordable Housing Project (AHP)

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK RELEASED WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT (WHR) 2023

● Report evaluates **levels of happiness** by taking into account **6 key variables**

➤ Healthy life expectancy

➤ GDP per capita

➤ Social support

➤ Low corruption

➤ Generosity in a community and

➤ Freedom to make key life decisions.

● The goal of the report is to **identify key determinants of well-being**.

➤ It is based on **people's own assessment of their happiness**, as well as economic and social data.

● **Ranking of happiness based on a 3-year-average 2020-22.**

● Key ranking

➤ Top three countries are **Finland, Denmark and Iceland respectively**.

➤ **Afghanistan, Lebanon, Sierra Leone** were in the bottom of the chart.

➤ **India has been ranked at the 126th place among 146 countries.**

■ India ranked below neighbours China, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

➤ **Bhutan is not listed** in the WHR 2023.

● **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)**

➤ It was launched in 2012 under **UN Secretary General**, it mobilizes **global scientific and technological expertise** to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including implementation of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris Climate Agreement**.

➤ It publishes **annual reports like Sustainable development Report and World Happiness Report**.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (ICMR) RELEASES GUIDELINES FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) USE IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

● Guidelines aims to ensure **ethical conduct and address emerging ethical challenges** in field of AI in biomedical research and healthcare.

➤ ICMR is the **apex body for conduct of biomedical research** and has been at the forefront to set the standards on ethics in biomedical and health research.

➤ These guidelines apply to **AI based tools created for all biomedical and health research and applications involving human participants and/or their biological data**.

● Significance of guidelines

➤ To **provide an ethics framework** which can assist in the development, deployment, and adoption of AI-based solutions for biomedical research and healthcare delivery.

➤ These guidelines are to be **used by experts and ethics committees reviewing research proposals** involving use of AI based tools and technologies.

● Integrating AI into healthcare has the **capacity to address major obstacles encountered in the healthcare sector**, such as detecting and screening diseases, administering treatments, preventing illnesses, making informed clinical decisions, monitoring public health, analyzing complex data, and predicting disease prognoses.



Ethical principles in AI for Health

“AN APPRAISAL OF THE SEVENTH SCHEDULE OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION” A WORKING PAPER RELEASED BY ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE PRIME MINISTER (EAC-PM)

- The seventh schedule of the Constitution is constituted under **Article 246** and deals with enumeration of legislative powers.
 - It contains **three lists** which allocate powers and responsibilities between **union and state legislatures**: List I (union list), List II (state list) and List III (concurrent list).
- **Changes suggested by working paper**
 - Consider recommendation of **Rajmanner Committee** to constitute a high power commission for **item-wise discussion** of seventh schedule after **building political consensus**.
 - Reconsider the **viability of a concurrent list** and instead replace it **with a local body list**.
 - Certain **entries need to be added** in light of recent technological developments and national experience in dealing with **various challenges like pandemics and climate change**.
 - For ex, Consumer protection, Emerging technologies like AI etc.
 - **Reform the process of making legislation in India**
 - Union government must effectively **consult with state governments** and win **their confidence** before introducing legislation on subjects in the concurrent list or using Article 253.
 - **Any law passed by the parliament or state legislatures** must **clearly mention the entry** of the respective list under which it is being promulgated.

ALSO IN NEWS



Sealed cover jurisprudence

- Supreme Court **refused to accept central government's sealed cover note** about its views on payment of One Rank One Pension arrears to ex-service personnel.
- **About sealed cover jurisprudence:**
 - It is practice of seeking and accepting information from government agencies in sealed envelopes that can **only be perused by judges**.
 - **This can happen when information is:**
 - Connected to an **ongoing investigation**;
 - **Personal or confidential** in nature.
 - **Concerns**
 - Prevents a party from having a **full overview of charges** against them.
 - Incompatible with idea of an **open court and a transparent** justice system.




City Financing ranking 2022

- 'City Finance Rankings 2022' **portal has been made live** by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- **About City Financing ranking 2022:**
 - It will provide **critical insights to policy makers into state of finances of urban local bodies (ULBs)**.
 - ULBs will be evaluated across **three key municipal finance assessment parameters**: Resource Mobilization, Expenditure Performance and Fiscal Governance.
 - Cities will be ranked under **four different population categories**.
 - **Top 3 cities** in each population category will be **recognized and rewarded** at the national level as well as within each state/state cluster.



The Labour20 (L20) Inception Meet Under G20 Concluded in Amritsar

- L20 adopts two joint statements on **Universalisation of Social Security and Woman and Future of Work**.
 - Joint statement advocated for resolving issues of **social security portability among G20 nations** as a first step towards universalisation of social security and plugging the gender gap in global workforce.
- **India's initiatives for social security of workers**
 - **eShram Portal** for the registration of Unorganized Workers.
 - **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana**.
 - **The Code on Social Security, 2020**.

 <p>Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBI Governor recently said that TReDS platform financed around 35000 factoring units (FU) monthly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An FU is a standard nomenclature used in TReDS for invoices or bills of exchange containing details related to the sale of goods or services by an MSME seller to the buyer. TReDS is a digital platform initiated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2014 for facilitating MSMEs by financing their trade receivables. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only MSMEs can participate as sellers in TReDS. Corporates, Government Departments, PSU and Others can participate as buyers. Banks, NBFC can participate as financiers.
 <p>Global Initiative on Sharing Avian Influenza Data (GISAID)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHO accused China of withholding data on Covid 19 origins based on recent data published by GISAID database. GISAID platform was launched on occasion of Sixty-first World Health Assembly in 2008. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a global science initiative and primary source that provides open access to genomic data of influenza viruses and coronavirus. In 2010, Federal Republic of Germany became the official host of GISAID platform. GISAID is managed by an Executive board, Scientific Advisory Council, Database Technical Group.
 <p>Keibul Lamjao park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Centre has advised the Manipur state government to take steps for the protection of Keibul Lamjao Park and Loktak Lake. Keibul Lamjao park is considered as the only floating national park in the world. The National park is situated in the south western part of the Loktak lake. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has a unique ecosystem called 'Phumdi'. Loktak Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the north-eastern India. Fauna: Brow-antlered deer(Sangai), hog deer, wild boar, large Indian civet, jungle cat and otter.
 <p>Butterfly Ecopark in Tripura</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Butterfly EcoPark at Chottakhola, close to the Trishna Wildlife sanctuary is the first butterfly park of northeast. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park is dedicated to conserving and promoting the unique butterfly species found in the region. It was established in 2016 and hosts around 250 species of butterflies. Butterflies are deemed to be indicators of a good ecological balance and healthy nature.
 <p>Places in news</p>	<p>Ecuador (Capital: Quito)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, a magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck southern Ecuador. Boundaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country of north- western South America. Situated on Equator, from which its name derives. Borders Colombia (north), Peru (east and south), and Pacific Ocean (west). It includes Pacific archipelago of Galapagos Islands. Maritime borders with Costa Rica. Geographical features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highest Point: Mount Chimborazo, an Andean stratovolcano and highest point above Earth's centre; followed by Cotopaxi. Major Rivers: Amazon River, Marañon River (also largest source of Amazon River) and Putumayo River. 