

# NEWS TODAY

## G20 MEMBERS ADOPTED OUTCOME DOCUMENT ON 'CHENNAI HIGH LEVEL PRINCIPLES ON SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT BLUE/OCEAN-BASED ECONOMY'

- Document serves as a **guiding framework to drive the transition to a sustainable and resilient blue economy** globally.
- **Nine principles were adopted** to address consequences of climate change on ocean-based economies.
  - > **Prioritise Ocean Health** by addressing Marine Pollution, Conserve Coastal and Marine Ecosystems.
  - > **Promote use of Marine Spatial Planning** for Blue Economy.
  - > **Leverage Science, Technology, and Innovation.**
  - > Recognise, Protect, and Utilise **Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge.**
  - > **Strengthening international cooperation** to tackle shared maritime challenges.
  - > **Enhance ocean finance.**
  - > **Acknowledge and address links between Ocean and Climate.**
  - > **Promote Social and Inter-generational Equity and Gender Equality.**
  - > Establish and Implement Blue Economy Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms.
- Blue economy refers to **sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth**, improve livelihoods, and jobs while preserving health of ocean ecosystems.
  - > **Fisheries, deep sea mining, and offshore oil and gas** make up a large section of India's blue economy.
- **Significance of Blue Economy:** Enhance **economic growth, achieving SDG 14** (Life Below Water), sustainable use of ocean resources etc.

• Earlier, **Gandhinagar Implementation Roadmap (GIR) and Gandhinagar Information Platform (GIP)** was launched for strengthening G20 Global Land Initiative.

> Roadmap aims to **enhance mutual collaboration among participating countries** to accelerate ecological/ecosystem restoration of the Forest fire-impacted areas and mining-affected areas.

## NATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (NHA) LAUNCHED 100 MICROSITES PROJECT UNDER AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION (ABDM)

- Microsites Project was launched to **accelerate digital health adoption across the country.**
  - Microsites aim to **establish a small ecosystem within a particular geographic area where there is complete ABDM adoption**, and entire patient journey is digitized.
    - > Microsite is a **cluster of healthcare stakeholders** (all healthcare providers, pharmacies etc.) interconnected by common characteristic.
    - > Microsites are **implemented to counter challenges encountered in ABDM adoption, and increase private sector participation** in healthcare penetration.
    - > Financial resources and overall guidance would be provided by NHA.
    - > Earlier, ABDM has implemented Microsite in Mumbai (2022), Ahmedabad and Surat (2023).
  - NHA is the **apex body responsible for implementing Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and ABDM.**
    - > NHA is **governed by a Governing Board chaired by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW).**
  - ABDM aims to create a seamless online platform that will **enable interoperability within the digital healthcare ecosystem** (refer image).
    - > **NHA under MoH&FW** is the nodal agency for its implementation.
- Benefits of ABDM:** Improve **efficiency, transparency** of healthcare services, better access to data and hence enables **evidence-based decision making** etc.



# COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN NCR & ADJOINING AREAS (CAQM) REVISED THE GRADED RESPONSE ACTION PLAN (GRAP)

- GRAP is an **emergency response mechanism based on the AQI level of Delhi**. It is divided into four stages, based on the Air Quality Index (AQI) levels.
- GRAP is **incremental in nature and thus**, when the air quality dips from 'poor' to 'very poor' and further, corresponding measures must be followed.
- **About revised measures**
  - **Stage 1 Poor Air Quality (AQI 201-300):** measures involve enforce NGT/SC orders on over-aged vehicles.
  - **Stage 2 Very Poor Air Quality (AQI 301-400):** Targeted action for **abatement of air pollution** in all identified hotspots.
  - **Stage 3 Severe Air Quality AQI (401-450):** **Strict restrictions on plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel vehicles in NCR** and discontinuing physical classes in schools. Earlier, it was optional measures for states.
  - **Stage 4 Severe+ Air quality (AQI 451 -beyond):** No light commercial registered outside Delhi, other than EVs/CNG/ BS-VI diesel, to enter Delhi. Earlier there were no such restrictions.
- The revised GRAP will come into force **w.e.f. October 1, 2023**.

- **Causes of Delhi NCR pollution:** Vehicular emissions, Construction activities, Industrial pollution, biomass burning in the neighbouring states etc.

## 15TH INDIA-JAPAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

### Key highlights of dialogue

- Achieving the **target of 5 trillion Japanese yen investment in India** in period 2022-27. Potential areas are critical and emerging technologies, resilient supply chains etc.
- Celebration of **2023 as the Year of India-Japan Tourism Exchanges** with the theme of 'Connecting Himalayas with Mount Fuji'.
- Focus on ensuring a **free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific region** that is inclusive and rules-based.
- **India - Japan relations**
  - **Economic Cooperation:** India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) came into force in 2011 covers trade in goods, services etc.
    - **Bilateral trade totalled US\$ 20.57 billion during FY 2021- 22.**
  - **Defence Cooperation:** India and Japan's defence forces organize **bilateral exercises** such as JIMEX (naval), Malabar exercise (Naval Exercise), 'Veer Guardian' and SHINYUU 'Maitri' (Air Force), and Dharma Guardian (Army).
  - **Multilateral platforms:** Both are members of QUAD, G20, G4, and International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor.
  - **Space Cooperation:** ISRO and JAXA have active **collaboration in X-ray astronomy, satellite navigation**, lunar exploration and Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF).



### About CAQM

- Established under **Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021**.
- Replaced the **Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control Authority)**.
- **Purpose:** Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas for **better coordination, research, identification, and resolution** of air quality problems.

## CENTRE MERGED PROJECT TIGER AND PROJECT ELEPHANT

- After the merger a new division named '**Project Tiger and Elephant Division**' (PT&E) has been **created under the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**.
- Now, **Additional Director General of Forests (ADGF) Project Tiger** will head the staffs of both divisions as ADGF of **Project Tiger and Project Elephant**.
- **Significance of the merger**
  - Makes the **administration of the projects efficient and linear**.
  - Since both the **species share the same habitat**, an integrated approach can benefit both.
- **Challenge:** Inclusion of multiple species under one project may dwindle the actual fund allocation to the tigers.
- **About Project Tiger**
  - **It is Centrally Sponsored Scheme of MoEFCC launched in 1973.**
  - **Objective:** To ensure the maintenance of a viable population of tigers in India for scientific, economic, aesthetic, cultural and ecological values.
  - **Implementing Agency:** National Tiger Conservation Authority (Statutory body).
- **Project Elephant**
  - **About:** It was launched in **1992 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme** by MoEFCC.
  - **Support and Coverage:** Financial and Technical support is being provided to major elephant-bearing States in the country.

# INDIA'S BIO-ECONOMY SOARS TO \$100 BN, AIM \$150 BN BY 2025

- **Bioeconomy** is the **economic activity** involving **biotechnology** and **biomass** in producing goods, services, or energy.
- It aims for **sustainability, circularity, conservation, and protection** while **harnessing the power of bioscience and biotechnology** to address **different sustainable development challenges**.
- **India's potential in Bio-Economy**
  - India ranked 12th in the world, 3rd in the Asia Pacific in the bioeconomy sector.
  - Huge potential due to Availability of **herbs in Himalayas** and huge **sea bed** wealth.
- **Major areas of Bio-economics** include, food systems, bioplastics, biodegradable clothing, bioenergy.
- **Challenges**
  - **Need of high investment and high energy** in establishing biotech labs.
  - **Lack of a common database** about bioresources of every region.
  - **Low public and private spending** on research and development.
  - **Lack of strong IPR regime** to protect bioresearch.
- **Initiatives**
  - **National Mission on Bioeconomy.**
  - **National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2015-2020 aim of establishing India as a world class bio manufacturing hub.**
  - **National Biopharma Mission** implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
  - **Financial support for start-ups** and entrepreneurs from North East Region to develop biotech solutions was initiated.

## ALSO IN NEWS



### Offer For Sale (OFS)

- OFS of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited was oversubscribed.
- **OFS is a process** where **promoters or owners of a listed company** sell their shares to the general public.
  - Shares can be obtained by **foreign institutional investors**, retail investors and companies.



### Free Movement Regime (FMR)

- FMR is a **mutually agreed arrangement** between two countries **that allows tribes living along the border on either side to travel up to 16 km inside** the other country **without a visa**.
  - It was implemented in **2018** as part of India's **Act East policy**.
  - Border between India and Myanmar spans across four states of **Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh**.



### Parkachik Glacier

- Study shows that Parkachik Glacier in Ladakh is likely to have three lakes of different dimensions due to rapid ice melt.
  - Main reasons for rapid melting of glacier are **global warming and increasing temperatures, and a lower altitude than other glaciers** in Zaskar region.
- **Parkachik Glacier is located in Suru sub-basin of Upper Indus River, Zaskar Himalaya.**
  - Suru River valley is a part of **southern Zaskar Ranges** in western Himalayas.



### Sahyadri Mountain Ranges

- A recent study has highlighted the **negative influence of changing land use** in **Sahyadri plateau** and on its **endemic creatures**.
- **About Sahyadri mountain ranges**
  - **Western Ghats** of Maharashtra are **locally known as Sahyadri ranges**.
  - **River Krishna** rises near Mahabaleshwar in Sahyadri.
  - **Kalsubai** is the highest peak in Maharashtra (located in Ahmednagar district).
  - **Kaas Plateau** also known as **Maharashtra valley of flowers** is situated in Sahyadri range of Western Ghats.

 <p><b>Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union government has introduced a bill in parliament to <b>amend the existing provisions of IIM Act-2017.</b></li> <li>• <b>Key Provisions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It nominates the <b>President as the “Visitor” of each IIM</b> in the country and allows him to nominate a <b>Chairperson to the Board of Governors.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Director of the IIMs</b> are to be <b>appointed out of the list of names recommended</b> by a <b>search-cum-selection committee</b> to be constituted by the Board.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New products &amp; nutraceuticals have been added under <b>PMBJP</b> by <b>Pharmaceuticals &amp; Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI).</b></li> <li>• PMBJP was <b>launched by Department of Pharmaceuticals in 2008</b> with objective of making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to people.</li> <li>• PMBI, erstwhile Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPi) is <b>implementing agency of PMBJP.</b></li> <li>• Medicines available under scheme are <b>priced 50-90% less than branded medicines.</b></li> </ul>
 <p><b>Ureilite</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study suggests that <b>Ureilite meteorite has formed India’s Dhala crater.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Dhala crater</b> was resulted from <b>collision of rare and ancient meteorite</b>, known as Ureilite, some 2500-1700 million years ago.</li> <li>➤ Madhya Pradesh’s Dhala structure is <b>Asia’s largest and world’s seventh-largest</b> impact crater.</li> <li>➤ In India, <b>three meteor impact craters</b> (ancient star wounds) are found. Other two are <b>Ramgarh in Rajasthan and Lonar in Maharashtra.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Ureilites’ are a rare class of primitive meteorites</b> that constitute a tiny fraction of meteorites on Earth.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ They consist of a <b>silicate rock, mostly olivine, and pyroxene</b>, interspersed with less than 10% of carbon (diamond or graphite), <b>metal sulphides</b> and a <b>few fine-grained silicates.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Places in news</b></p>	<p><b>Papua New Guinea (Capital: Port Moresby)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US Secretary of Defence said the US was not seeking a permanent base in Papua New Guinea.</li> <li>• <b>Political Boundaries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Island country in <b>southwestern Pacific Ocean</b>, just <b>south of the equator.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Land border:</b> Indonesia (west).</li> <li>➤ <b>Maritime borders:</b> Australia (south) and Solomon Islands (south-east).</li> <li>➤ It encompasses <b>eastern half of New Guinea</b> (world’s second largest island).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Geographical features</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Major islands:</b> New Britain, <b>Bougainville and Buka</b> (part of Solomon Islands chain) etc.</li> <li>➤ <b>Highest Point:</b> Mount Wilhelm.</li> <li>➤ <b>Terrain:</b> Mostly mountains with coastal lowlands.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Malaysia (Capital: Kuala Lumpur)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10th meeting of Sub Committee on Military Cooperation between India &amp; Malaysia held in New Delhi.</li> <li>• <b>Political Boundaries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Country of <b>Southeast Asia</b>, lying just <b>north of Equator.</b></li> <li>➤ Bordered by <b>Thailand</b> (north), <b>Singapore</b> (south), <b>Indonesia</b> (southwest) and <b>Brunei.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Malaysia consists of two non-contiguous regions:</b> Peninsular Malaysia (West Malaysia) located in Malay Peninsula, and East Malaysia (Malaysia Timur), which is on island of Borneo.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Geographical features</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Major Rivers:</b> Pahang, Sarawak, Rajang, Kinabatangan.</li> <li>➤ <b>Highest Point:</b> Gunung Kinabalu (4100m).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

