

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 21, 2022

NATIONAL

- **On November 21, India - takes over the chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) for 2022-23**
- ✓ The third edition of the annual Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) summit begins on November 21 in Tokyo
- ✓ Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar will represent the country at the GPAI meeting in Tokyo for the symbolic takeover from the outgoing Chair, France.
- ✓ In the election for the Council Chair, India received more than a two-thirds majority of the first-preference votes, and was followed by Canada and the US, respectively.
- ✓ GPAI is an international initiative that facilitates international cooperation on artificial technology by bringing together stakeholders on a single platform
- ✓ The GPAI is a congregation of 25 member countries - Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, the Republic of Korea (South Korea), Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union (EU).
- ✓ India joined the GPAI on June 15, 2020 as a founding member.
- ✓ The city of Montreal in Canada hosted the inaugural edition on December 3 and 4, 2020, followed by Paris, on November 11 and 12, 2021

INTERNATIONAL

- **The World Health Organization (WHO) - has announced new guidelines to improve survival and health outcomes for preterm and small babies**
- ✓ Preterm babies are defined as those who are born before the completion of 37 weeks of pregnancy while small babies are those who weigh under 2.5 kg at the time of birth.

- ✓ The recent guidelines recommend that skin-to-skin contact between the caregiver and child be immediately established after birth, before putting the baby in an incubator
- ✓ The method of this contact is known as "kangaroo mother care," (KMC) where skin-to-skin contact is ensured for as long as possible in a special sling or wrap with a primary caregiver.
- ✓ KMC is recommended by the Government of India to all babies with birth weight less than 2 kg and it has been in practice in India for decades
- ✓ The guidelines also suggest that breastfeeding is the most effective and safe method, with donor human milk being the best alternative to mother's milk as it also reduces the chances of infections.
- ✓ The guidelines also recommend ensuring emotional, financial and workplace support for families of very small and preterm babies.
- ✓ The guidelines were released ahead of World Prematurity Day, which is observed every year on November 17.
- ✓ Each year there are over 15 million babies are born preterm and 20 million babies are born small.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- The 27th session of the UN climate talks (COP27) at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt – concluded on November 20 with delegates adopting two main texts - a final declaration and a landmark deal on climate "loss and damage".

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: HITS & MISSES

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Countries agree to set up a historic 'loss & damage' fund. It'll **support developing nations vulnerable to climate impacts**
- **Institutional arrangements put in place** for averting, minimising and addressing 'loss and damage'
- **Paris Agreement intact**, commitments have been reaffirmed



LOST OPPORTUNITY

- No 'phase out' of fossil fuels. Next COP in UAE, an oil producer, where **fossil fuel deal may be tough**
- Little additional money put on table
- **No new emission reduction targets** pledged
- Global climate finance (2019-20) **only 32% of annual investment required**

- ✓ More than 195 countries agreed to set up a 'loss and damage fund' for supporting poor vulnerable countries that are victims of extreme weather events caused by historical cumulative emissions of rich nations.
- ✓ The funding for loss and damage is included in the COP agenda for the first time
- ✓ However, the countries could not agree to "phase down" all fossil fuels to keep the 1.5 degree Celsius goal to limit global warming
- ✓ India and most European Union (EU) nations wanted it to be included in the final decision of COP27.

- ✓ Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav spoke at the closing plenary session of the COP 27 of the UNFCCC

COP27: KEY TAKEAWAYS OF SHARM EL-SHEIKH

Loss and damage

- Countries agree to establish a historic loss and damage fund 
- New fund will support developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change 
- Institutional arrangements established for averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change



Demonstrators at the COP27 UN climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh

Mitigation

- Paris Agreement remains intact – no backsliding or backtracking as commitments reaffirmed and strengthened despite global headwinds
- Keeping global warming within 1.5 degree C rise over pre-industrial level (1850-1900) still in sight
- Calls for rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- It requires lowering global net GHG emissions by 43% by 2030 relative to the 2019 level to limit global warming to the 1.5 degree C target
- Calls upon countries to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their national climate plans by the end of 2023
- Calls upon countries to accelerate efforts to 'phase down' unabated coal power and 'phase-out' inefficient fossil fuel subsidies

Adaptation

Glasgow - Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global adaptation goal progressed with a conclusion to happen at COP28

Countries to further integrate water into adaptation efforts to increase in protecting, conserving and restoring food security, agriculture and water-related ecosystems including river basins, aquifers and lakes

Finance

Agreement calls for multilateral development banks (MDBs) and international financial institutions to reform practices and priorities to ensure simplified access to climate finance

MDBs called on to increase deployment of climate finance three-fold up until 2025

It includes deploying a full suite of instruments from grants to guarantees and non-debt instruments, without exacerbating debt burdens

COP27: Key mission points

No 'phase out' of fossil fuels

Little new money on table

Global climate finance for 2019-20 was only **31-32%** of the annual investment required



Key commitments made at COP27

- The green renewable hydrogen forum was launched to find ways to enhance investment in green renewable hydrogen
- G7 countries launched a new insurance system - called Global Shield - to provide financial aid to vulnerable nations hit by the effects of

- climate change
- Global Shield will receive an initial €200 million of funding
- The US Environmental Protection Agency announced to expand its 2021 methane rule; reduce methane from the oil and gas industry by 87% below 2005 levels
- COP27 saw the launch

- of a new five-year work programme to promote climate technology solutions in developing countries
- UNSG António Guterres announced \$3.1 billion to ensure everyone on the planet is protected by early warning systems within the next five years

- ✓ From India's point of view, inclusion of "transition to sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production" in the COP27 cover decision is the big takeaway
- ✓ The final outcome of the COP27 also retains the Glasgow climate pact's points on mitigation
 - ✓ This includes "phase down" of unabated coal power and "phase out" of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies with conditions that's suitable for India.
- ✓ The COP27 also set up a four-year work programme on climate action in agriculture and food security, and on just transition for energy use.
- ✓ The declaration also calls for accelerating "clean and just transitions to renewable energy".
- ✓ The committee will present its recommendations "for consideration and adoption" at the COP28 summit next year in Dubai.

AWARDS

- **Megastar Chiranjeevi - was declared the Indian Film Personality of the Year at the 53rd edition of the International Film Festival of India at Goa on November 20.**



- ✓ According to Union information and broadcasting minister Anurag Thakur, the award is an acknowledgment of the actor's multi-decade contribution as an actor, dancer and producer in Indian cinema.
- ✓ The Union Minister announced that both the Indian Film Personality of the Year and the Lifetime Achievement Award would be conferred on Chiranjeevi.
- ✓ With an illustrious career spanning almost four decades, Chiranjeevi has been a part of more than 150 feature films in Telugu, as well as some in Hindi, Tamil and Kannada.
- ✓ In 2008, Chiranjeevi founded the Praja Rajyam Party and went on to become an MLA.

- ✓ He later merged his political party with the Indian National Congress and became a Rajya Sabha member.
- ✓ Chiranjeevi also served as the Union Minister of Tourism from 2012 and 2014.
- ✓ The artist has been honoured with the most coveted awards, namely, Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian honour in 2006, the Raghupathi Venkaiah award, the highest award of Andhra Pradesh, the Nandi award and many others
- ✓ He takes an active part in philanthropy through his organisation, The Chiranjeevi Charitable Foundation, which was founded in 1998.
- ✓ The 53rd IFFI will feature 280 films from 79 countries and runs till November 28.

