

NEWS TODAY

PM DELIVERS 'STATE OF THE WORLD' SPECIAL ADDRESS AT THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM'S (WEF) DAVOS AGENDA

• Key Highlights of PM's address:

On Pandemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributing to global needs with a vision of "one earth, one health" through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of vaccines and medicines to other countries, Contribution of health care professionals and Role of Indian software developers in development of innovative digital platforms.
Modernisation of both physical and digital infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efforts to connect 600,000 villages with optical fibre network; Planned \$1.3 trillion investment in infrastructure; Gatishakti national master plan
Ease of Doing Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplification of corporate tax rates. Deregulated areas like Drones, Space, Geo-spatial mapping and reforms in the outdated telecom regulation related with the IT and BPO sectors. Reduction of 25,000 regulatory compliances in the past year
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform in global governance structures to deal with contemporary policy challenges, including developing a uniform view on cryptocurrency. Making LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment) into a mass movement for a strong foundation for P-3 i.e 'Pro Planet People' approach.

- WEF was **established in 1971 as a not-for-profit foundation** and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
 - It engages the foremost political, business, cultural and other leaders of society **to shape global, regional and industry agendas.**
- Davos Agenda **mobilizes global leaders to shape the principles, policies and partnerships** needed in this challenging new context.
 - Three main areas of concern** at 2022 summit are **Climate Action, Pandemic Recovery, and Economic and Social Resilience.**

BIODIVERCITIES BY 2030: TRANSFORMING CITIES' RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE REPORT RELEASED

- Report is a **key output of BiodiverCities by 2030 initiative**, led jointly by World Economic Forum and Alexander von Humboldt Institute, Colombia.
 - Initiative aims **to support city governments, businesses and citizens**, to make choices that **enable cities to live in harmony with nature by 2030.**
 - Urban areas are responsible for over 75% of global carbon emissions, degradation of local ecosystems and the loss of habitats.
- Key highlights of the report**
 - 44% of global GDP in cities is estimated to be at risk** of disruption from nature loss.
 - Nature-positive investments** - such as Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for infrastructure or returning land to nature - **could create more than 59 million jobs** in cities worldwide and **generate over \$1.5 trillion in annual business value** by 2030.
 - NbS for infrastructure delivers 28% greater added value in terms of direct and environmental benefits.
- Recommendations**
 - Cities must **embrace a 'systems approach' to urban governance** that considers needs of all stakeholders.
 - Cities must **reintegrate nature into their spatial planning** decisions.
 - Make nature an attractive investment to financial markets** and drive private funding into cities' natural capital.





INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT (IMD) LAUNCHES 1ST CLIMATE HAZARDS AND VULNERABILITY ATLAS OF INDIA

- Atlas is **based on several extreme weather events** (extreme rainfall, drought, coldwave, heatwave, thunderstorm, cyclones, lightning etc) and the **risks they pose to the local population, livelihoods and economy** of each district.
 - The atlas **provides a range of vulnerability with risks** ranging from nil, low, moderate, high and very high categories **for every Indian district**.
- Significance**
 - Impact-based warnings** can be issued for various regions. Atlas will help in understanding region specific impact of certain extreme weather events.
 - Help disaster management sectors to identify the vulnerable districts** for taking preventive and adaptive measures.
 - Aid in disaster preparedness as extreme weather events rise** in the wake of the climate crisis.
 - Planning **climate-resilient infrastructure**.
 - Changes in the hazard-prone areas** in recent times have also been incorporated.
 - Supporting monitoring** and forecasting, Improving public health facilities i.e. emergency response capabilities, better early warning systems etc.
- Hazard:** Defined as physical phenomena that pose a threat to the people, structures or economic assets and which may cause a disaster.
- Vulnerability:** It is the extent to which a community, structure, service or geographic area is likely to be damaged or disrupted by the impact of a particular hazard.

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES CLEARS 20 STRATEGIC PROJECTS UNDER NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEXTILES MISSION (NTTM)

- Strategic research projects are **in the areas of Specialty fibres and Geotextiles**.
 - Specialty fibres are **based upon a unique composition, weave, or technology, and are designed for specialised applications** like aerospace, clothing etc.
 - Geotextiles are **permeable synthetic textile materials** (produced from polyester or polypropylene polymers) mainly used in erosion control, civil construction etc.
- Technical Textiles (TT) is **textiles materials and products manufactured primarily for technical performance and functional properties** rather than aesthetic characteristics.
 - TT accounts for **approximately 13% of India's total textile and apparel market**.
 - Penetration level** of TT is low in India **at 5-10%, against 30-70% in advanced countries**.
 - TT products are divided into **12 broad categories (refer infographic)**
- About NTTM**
 - It aims to **position India as a global leader in TT**. It will also **focus on the usage of TT in various flagship missions, programmes**, including strategic sectors.
 - NTTM has been **approved with a four year implementation period** (FY 2020-21 to 2023-24).
 - Components of NTTM:** Research Innovation & Development, Promotion and Market Development, Education, Training and Skilling, Export Promotion.

USAGE OF TECHNICAL TEXTILES IN 12 SEGMENTS (BASED ON APPLICATION)

MEDITECH

Diapers, Sanitary Napkins, Disposables, Contact Lens, Artificial Implants

MOBILTECH

Airbags, Helmets, Nylon Tyre Cords, Airline Disposables

OEKOTECH

Recycling, Waste Disposal, Environmental Protection

PACKTECH

Wrapping Fabrics, Polyolefin Woven Sacks, Leno Bags, Jute Sacks

PROTECH

Bullet Proof Jackets, Fire Retardant Apparels, High Visibility Clothing

SPORTECH

Sports Net, Artificial Turf, Parachute Fabrics, Tents, Swimwear

AGROTECH

Shadenets, Fishing Nets, Mulch Mats, Ant Hail Nets

BUILDTECH

Cotton Canvas Tarpaulins, Floor and Wall Coverings, Canopies

CLOTHTECH

Zip Fasteners, Garments, Umbrella Cloth, Shoelaces

GEOTECH

Geogrids, Geonets, Geocomposites

HOMECH

Mattress and Pillow Fillings, Stuffed Toys, Blinds, Carpets

GEOTECH

Conveyer Belts, Vehicle Seat Belts, Bolting Cloth

INDIA NEEDS GREEN REVOLUTION 2.0 TO MAKE AGRI MORE CLIMATE-RESISTANT, SUSTAINABLE: RBI

- Observing that Indian agriculture has exhibited remarkable resilience during COVID-19, a **RBI article on farm sector stated new emerging challenges warrant a second green revolution** along with next-generation reforms.
 - In 1960's, **Green revolution led to increase in production of food grains** resulting from use of high yielding variety (HYV) seeds especially for wheat and rice.
- Challenges identified**
 - Productivity, mechanisation and irrigation remain much lower** compared to international standards.
 - Climate change, agriculture waste management, fragmentation** of farm holdings.
 - Disguised unemployment** and volatility of food prices.
 - Current overproduction of crops** like rice, wheat and sugarcane, has led to **rapid depletion of ground-water table, soil degradation and massive air pollution**.
 - Current availability of **cold storage facility in India is highly skewed** with nearly 70% of the country's total capacity limited to Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab and Gujarat.
- Addressing these challenges would require a second green revolution with focus on:**
 - Water-energy nexus**
 - Making agriculture climate resistant and environmentally sustainable**
 - Use of biotechnology**
 - Wider use of digital technology** and extension service,
 - Better **post-harvest loss-management** and a revamp of co-operative movement.

ALSO IN NEWS



Election Commission of India (ECI) postponed Punjab Assembly polls

- The move comes following the request to ECI to **postpone the election in view of Guru Ravidas Jayanti celebrations**.
- Under **Section 153 of the Representation of the People Act 1951**, the **ECI can “extend the time” for completing an election**.
 - However such **extension should not go beyond the date of the normal dissolution/term of the House** (Lok Sabha or State Assembly).
- **Term of the House can only be extended in an emergency** declared by Parliament.
 - **Constitution restricts this emergency to only two situations** — war and breakdown of law and order.



World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2022 Report

- **Published by International Labour organization**, report details effects of COVID-19 crisis on the world of work.
- **Key highlights**
 - **Global unemployment is projected to stand at 207 million in 2022**, surpassing 2019 level by some 21 million.
 - In 2020, an additional **30 million adults fell into extreme poverty** (living on less than US\$1.90 per day).
 - **Pandemic is deepening various forms of inequality** (gender inequity, digital divide etc).
 - Report recommends a **Human-centred recovery based on four pillars**: inclusive economic growth and development; protection of all workers; universal social protection; and social dialogue.



Open Data Week (ODW)

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launches the ODW **to encourage adoption of open data and promote innovation across India's urban ecosystem**.
 - Open data is data that can be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone.
- **All 100 Smart Cities will participate in ODW** where high quality datasets and data blogs will be published on the Smart Cities Open Data Portal.
 - The **event aims to show the benefits of open data** such as increased efficiency, transparency, spur in innovation and economic growth



EDGE (Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies)

- **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, a member of the World Bank Group, **created EDGE as a green building certification system** focused on making buildings more resource-efficient.
 - EDGE includes a **cloud-based platform to calculate cost of going green** and utility savings.
- EDGE **empowers emerging markets to scale up resource-efficient buildings** in a fast, easy, and affordable way.
- EDGE enables developers and builders **to quickly identify the most cost-effective ways to reduce energy use, water use** and embodied energy in materials.
- EDGE is currently **funded by UK Government**.



Kumbhalgarh, Todgarh sanctuaries unsuitable for viable tiger population

- A National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) report has ruled out the possibility of declaring Rajasthan's Kumbhalgarh and Todgarh-Raoli **wildlife sanctuaries as a tiger reserve**.
- **Reasons cited:**
 - Proposed tiger reserve is **an isolated patch of forest with no connectivity with Ranthambhore**, which has the only tiger source population in the state.
 - The **landscape** (moderate to steep slopes) **is unsuitable** to hold viable big cat population.
 - The proposed areas would make it difficult to confine tigers which may **escalate the likelihood of human-wildlife conflict** in the adjoining landscape.






REvil

- Ransomware group REvil has been **dismantled by the Russian authorities** at the request of US government agencies.
 - REvil's name is an **amalgam of “ransomware” and “evil”**. It is a **Russia-based hacking organization**.
- Ransomware is a **malware** (collective name for malicious software variants) **that employs encryption to hold a victim's information at ransom**.
- Group REvil **would steal data from computers, lock the victims out of their computers**, and then threaten to release stolen data by auctioning it off.

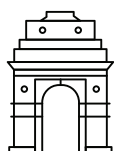


Artificial Moon

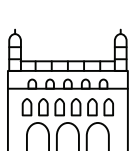
- **China has built an artificial moon facility** that will simulate lunar conditions **to train astronauts, test new rovers and technologies** for future missions.
 - Facility has been **made with rocks and dust that are as light as those on moon**.
 - It will **use powerful magnetic field** to make gravity disappear.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China has already developed an artificial sun to replicate nuclear fusion process that occurs naturally in the sun and stars to provide almost infinite clean energy.
 <p>Land Subsidence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A recent study highlighted that alarming rate of ground water depletion in Delhi- NCR may be leading to land subsidence. Land subsidence is a gradual settling or sudden sinking of the Earth's surface due to removal or displacement of subsurface earth materials. It is most often caused by the removal of water, oil, natural gas, or mineral resources out of the ground by pumping, fracking, or mining activities. It can also be caused by natural events such as earthquakes, soil compaction, erosion, sinkhole formation etc.
 <p>Durand Line</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taliban soldiers dismantled the fence on Durand line and later stopped Pakistani soldiers from fixing it again. Durand Line serves as the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The line, established in 1893, was reached in an agreement between the Amir of Afghanistan, Abdur Rahman Khan, and British colonial government of India.
 <p>Personalities in News</p>	<p>Guru Ravidas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guru Ravidas was a Saint, philosopher, poet, social reformer of the Bhakti movement. He is known for making efforts in eradicating caste system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He was born in Varanasi around 1377 C.E. ➤ He was contemporary of Kabir and Guru Nanak Dev. Ravidas' devotional songs were included in the Sikh scriptures, Guru Granth Sahib. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mirabai was a disciple of Ravidas.

Clarification: In News Today, dated 14th & 15th January 2022, under 'India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021 Released'- Mizoram was written as NER state with the highest forest cover, followed by Arunachal Pradesh and others. Kindly read that statement as a percentage of Total Geographical Area with Mizoram having highest percentage of area under forest cover, followed by Arunachal Pradesh and other NER states.



DELHI



LUCKNOW



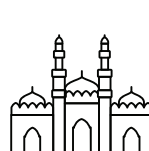
JAIPUR



HYDERABAD



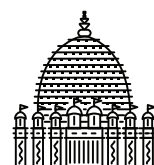
PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI