

NEWS TODAY

13TH BRICS SUMMIT HELD UNDER INDIA'S CHAIRSHIP

- The theme of the Summit was **BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus**.
 - These four Cs are in a way the **fundamental principles of BRICS partnership**.
- **Key takeaways:**
 - On post-Covid global recovery, PM called for enhanced BRICS cooperation **under motto of 'Build-back Resiliently, Innovatively, Credibly and Sustainably'**.
 - Adopted '**New Delhi Declaration**' that calls for
 - Settling Afghan situation via peaceful means.
 - **Reforms of principal organs of United Nations** including that of UN Security Council (UNSC).
 - BRICS has taken a collective **position on 'Strengthening and Reforming Multilateral Systems'**.
 - Addressing **humanitarian situations and to uphold human rights**, including those of women, children and minorities.
 - Accelerate implementation of **Action Plan on Counter-Terrorism**.
 - **Agreement on space agencies and remote-sensing satellites** will enhance research capabilities in global climate change, disaster management, prevention of food and water scarcity etc.
 - Action plan 2021-2024 for **agriculture cooperation** adopted.
- **BRICS bring together the major emerging economies from the world**, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, comprising 41% of the world population, having 24% of the world GDP and over 16% share in world trade.



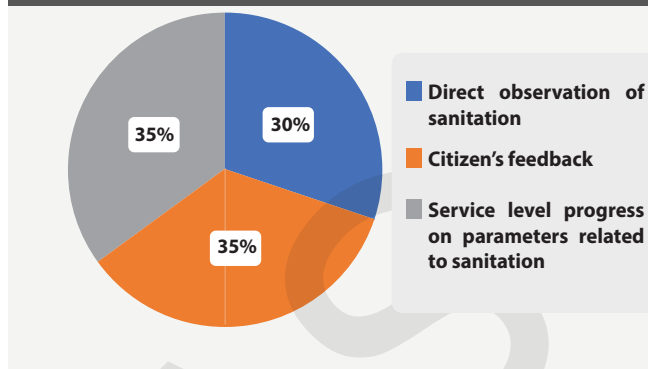
INDIA, US HOLD MINISTERIAL MEETING ON STRATEGIC CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP (SCEP)

- The SCEP is launched in accordance with **US-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership** at the **Leaders' Summit on Climate** held in April 2021.
 - Energy security is at the core of India-US strategic energy partnership.
 - India elevated India-US energy dialogue to a strategic energy partnership in February 2018.
- SCEP organizes inter-governmental engagement across **five pillars of cooperation**,
 - **Power and Energy Efficiency,**
 - **Responsible Oil and Gas,**
 - **Renewable Energy,**
 - **Sustainable Growth and**
 - **Emerging Fuels.**
- **Key highlights:**
 - **Addition of fifth Pillar on Emerging Fuels** which signals joint resolve to promote cleaner energy fuels.
 - Announced new **India-US Task Force on Biofuels** to build the scope of work on cooperation in biofuels sector.
 - **Rechristening of Gas Task Force to India-US Low Emissions Gas Task Force** to support India's vision of **gas-based economy**.
 - Develop better understandings on methane abatement under it.
 - Reviewed the progress on **India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Energy cooperation**.
 - Expand the scope of work to include smart grid and grid storage as part of second phase of **Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE)-Research** initiative.



MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI LAUNCHES SWACHH SURVEKSHAN GRAMEEN-2021 UNDER SWACHH BHARAT MISSION (GRAMEEN) PHASE -II

Weightage under Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021



- SSG 2021 is a **survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation** to support the acceleration of **ODF Plus interventions** and **increase momentum for improving ODF Sustainability** as well as **Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) activities** across the villages.
 - Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)** had commissioned 'Swachh Survekshan Grameen' in 2018 and 2019.
 - An expert agency has been hired to conduct the Survekshan 2021.
- Significance:**
 - The survey will help us in bridging the gaps by **identifying challenges on ground and working with all states**.
 - SSG also **fostered a spirit of healthy competition among villages** to improve their service delivery to citizens, towards creating cleaner villages.
 - The citizen feedback will strengthen the program further.
- Swachh Bharat Mission was **launched in 2014 to accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put the focus on sanitation**.
 - SBM (Grameen) is implemented by Ministry of Jal Shakti.
 - SBM (Urban) is implemented by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MOE) RELEASES INDIA RANKINGS OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTES (HEIs), 2021

- This is the **sixth consecutive edition** of India Rankings of HEIs in India by the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)**.
- NIRF has been accepted by the MoE in September 2015. This framework outlines a **methodology to rank institutions across the country**.
 - It is the first-ever effort by the government to rank HEIs in the country. Before NIRF, HEIs were usually ranked by private entities.
 - Participation in the NIRF was made **compulsory for all government-run educational institutions** in 2018.
- All education institutions are assessed on **five parameters** namely **teaching, learning and resources, research and professional practices, graduation outcomes, outreach and inclusivity, and perception**.
- NIRF lists out best institutions across **11 categories** i.e. overall national ranking, universities, engineering, college, medical, management, pharmacy, law, architecture, dental and research.

THE TOP 5

RANK	OVERALL	UNIVERSITIES	COLLEGES
1	IIT Madras	IISc	Miranda House, Delhi
2	IISc	JNU	SRCC, Delhi
3	IIT Bombay	BHU	Loyola College, Chennai
4	IIT Delhi	Calcutta University	St Xavier's, Kolkata
5	IIT Kanpur	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, Howrah

AVERAGE DEBT OF FARM HOUSEHOLDS UP 57% IN FIVE YEARS TILL 2018: NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE (NSO)

- The findings of the survey "**Situation Assessment of Agricultural Households and Land Holdings of Households in Rural India, 2019**" was released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementations.
- Key findings**
 - Over 50% of agricultural households** in the country **were in debt** with average outstanding loan per household at Rs 74,121 in **2019**.
 - Only 69.6% of outstanding loans were taken from institutional** sources like banks, cooperative societies and government agencies, while 20.5% were from professional moneylenders.
 - Of the total loan, **only 57.5% was taken for agricultural purposes**.
 - The **average monthly income per agricultural household** during agricultural year 2018-19 was at **Rs 10,218**.
 - The **number of agricultural households** in the country was estimated at **9.3 crore** with **OBCs** accounting for **45.8%**, **SC 15.9%**, **ST 14.2%** and others 24.1%.
 - As much as **83.5% of rural households had less than 1 hectare of land**, while **only 0.2%** possessed land in excess of **10 hectare**.
- Mechanisms of Agriculture Credit in India:** Priority Sector Lending; Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS); Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme; Self Help Group - Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP) etc.


THE PORUNAI RIVER (THAMIRABARANI) CIVILIZATION IN TAMIL NADU DATING BACK 3,200 YEARS (1155 BC)



- A carbon dating analysis of rice with soil, found in a **burial urn at Sivakalai** in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu (TN) has yielded the date of 1155 BC.
 - This is the **oldest civilization perhaps, older than the Vaigai civilization** which is believed to be 2,600 years old.
- More archaeological **excavations would be carried out** in other States and countries **in search of Tamil roots**.

○ Vaigai Civilisation' is an indigenous, well developed self-sustaining urban culture with an industry and script, indicating that the people of that era were highly literate.

➤ The findings have also **invited comparisons with the Indus Valley Civilisation** as several experts points to the **similarities in urban planning between the Indus Valley and Vaigai Civilisation**.
- **States to be covered:** The **ancient port of Muziris**, now known as Pattanam, in Kerala **to establish the ancientness and culture of the Chera empire** along with **Vengi** in Andhra Pradesh, **Thalaikadu** in Karnataka and **Palur** in Odisha.
- **Countries to be covered**
 - **Egypt** (at Quseir al-Qadim and Pernica Anekke) **and Oman** (at Khor Rori). **Potsherds bearing Tamil scripts have been found** in these countries.
 - **Southeast Asian countries**, such as Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam, **where King Rajendra Chola had established supremacy**.
- **Significance:** Findings could lead to evidence that **there was a city civilisation in south India as long back as 3,200 years ago, the later part of the Indus Valley Civilisation**.

ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government enhances the scope of TMA scheme for specified agriculture products by including dairy products in its purview and increasing the rates of assistance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scheme was introduced to provide assistance for the international component of freight, to mitigate disadvantage of higher freight costs faced by the Indian exporters of agriculture products. ➤ It has been extended till March 31, 2022. ➤ Rates of assistance have been increased by 50 percent for exports by sea and 100 percent for exports by air.
 <p>Protectors of Emigrants (PoEs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fourth Conference of PoEs was held which coincides with the date of enactment of Emigration Act (EA), 1983. • POEs are responsible for granting emigration clearance to the intending emigrants as per the procedure prescribed under the Emigration Act, 1983. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It aims to protect and aid with his advice all intending emigrants and emigrants. • PoE shall perform the functions assigned to them by this Act under the general superintendence and control of the Protector General of Emigrants.
 <p>World's northernmost island</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientists have discovered new world's northernmost island located off the coast of Greenland. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New island is made up of seabed mud and moraine, i.e. soil, rock and other material left behind by moving glaciers, and has no vegetation. ➤ Before this, Oodaaq was marked as Earth's northernmost terrain. ➤ Global warming has had severe effect on ice sheet of Greenland but new island is not direct consequence of climate change. • Greenland is vast autonomous Arctic territory that belongs to Denmark. <div>  </div>

 <p>Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The world's largest CCS plant, at Orca in Iceland, has started running. It can suck carbon dioxide out of the air and turn it into rock. • The CCS technology captures CO2 at large stationary sources, such as fossil fuel-fired power plants, and injects it into the deep subsurface for long-time storage. • It is seen as a major tool in the fight against climate change, but still prohibitively expensive and might take decades to operate at scale.
 <p>Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, along with the Australian government. • Key findings: Since 2010, almost all regions had exhibited a decline in average coral cover (mostly due to either rapid increase in sea surface temperature (SST) anomaly or sustained high SST anomaly. ➤ Corals are invertebrate animals belonging to a large group of colourful animals called Cnidaria. ➤ Coral bleaching: When corals get stressed, from things such as heat or pollution, expel the algae (zooxanthellae) leaving a transparent skeleton behind.
 <p>Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) found 1500 year old temple remains</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The structural temple was discovered at Bilsarh, Etah-Uttar Pradesh, a known Gupta period settlement. • This is the 3rd structural temple of the Gupta period to be discovered (other are Dashavatara Temple, Deogarh and Bhitargaon Temple, Kanpur Dehat). • It was built for Brahmins, Jains and Buddhists. • The staircase bore inscription in the Shankhalipi script and the title of 'Sri Mahendraditya' which was accorded to Kumaragupta I (ruled over north-central India during the 5th century). • Guptas were the first to build structural temples, a distinct change from the ancient rock-cut temples.
 <p>Personalities in news</p>	<p>Acharya Vinoba Bhave (11 September 1895 – 15 November 1982)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is remembered as a great scholar-saint, was a 20th-century Gandhian thinker who advocated for non-violence and human rights. • He was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's speech at the Benaras College during the freedom struggle. • He is best known for the Bhoodan Movement or 'Bloodless Revolution', a voluntary land reform movement at the Pochampally village, in Telangana. • Publications: Geeta Pravachane; Teesri Shakti; Swarajya Shastra; Bhoodan Ganga; Moved by Love. • Vinoba Bhave was the first international figure to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1958. He was awarded Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1983.



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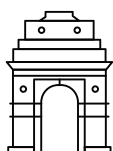
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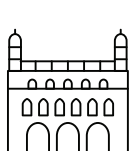
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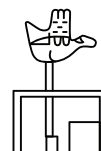
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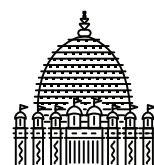
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