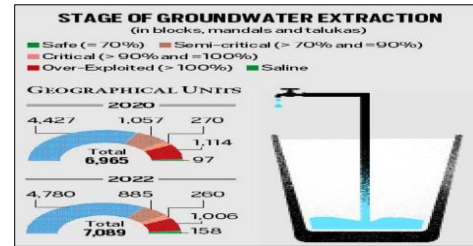


## State of Groundwater Extraction

### Context

The Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Jal Shakti has released the groundwater assessment report - **National Compilation on Dynamic Ground Water Resources Of India, 2022.**



### Key Highlights

Annual groundwater extraction for irrigation, domestic and industrial uses	Has decreased
Total annual groundwater recharge for the entire country	Has increased
Total annual extractable GW resources	Has increased

- About **87% of total annual groundwater extraction i.e. 208.49 bcm** is for irrigation use.
- The annual groundwater extraction has seen a decline since 2017.
- Stage of Groundwater Extraction**
- The overall stage of groundwater extraction in the country is **60.08 %**.
- The stage of groundwater extraction is more than 100% in the states of Haryana, **Punjab (highest)**, Rajasthan, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.
- This implies that in these states the **annual ground water consumption** is more than **annual extractable ground water resources**.
- In the states of **Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and UTs of Chandigarh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry**, the stage of ground water extraction is between 60-100%.
- In the rest of the states, the stage of ground water extraction is below 60%.

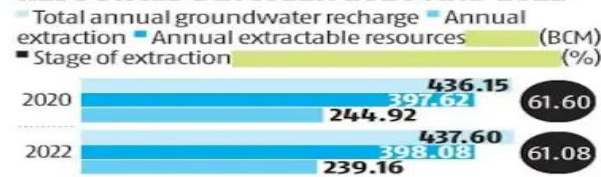
1. Total Annual Ground Water Recharge	: 437.60 bcm
2. Annual Extractable Ground Water Resources	: 398.08 bcm
3. Annual Ground Water Extraction	: 239.16 bcm
4. Stage of Ground Water Extraction	: 60.08 %

### CATEGORIZATION OF ASSESSMENT UNITS

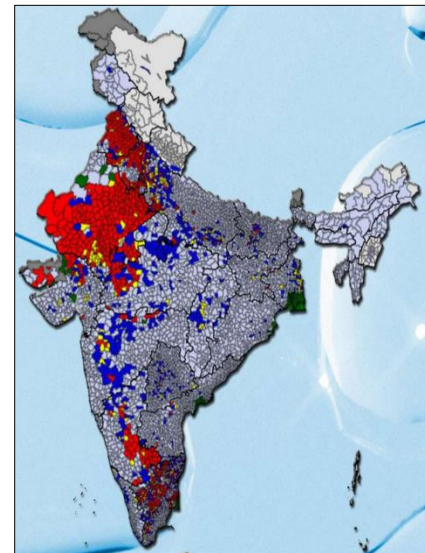
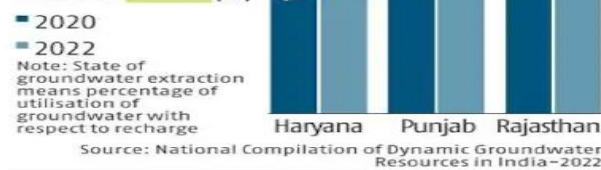
(Blocks/ Mandals/ Firkas/ Taluks etc.)

Sl.No	Category	Number of Assessment Units		Recharge worthy Area		Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource	
		Number	%	in lakh sq. km	%	(in bcm)	%
1	Safe	4780	67	16.18	66	291.88	73
2	Semi Critical	885	12	3.03	12	47	12
3	Critical	260	4	0.77	3	13.02	3
4	Over-Exploited	1006	14	4.30	17	46.05	12
5	Saline	158	2	0.4	2	NA	NA
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7089</b>		<b>24.69</b>		<b>398.08</b>	

### THE STATE OF INDIA'S GROUNDWATER RESOURCES BETWEEN 2020 AND 2022



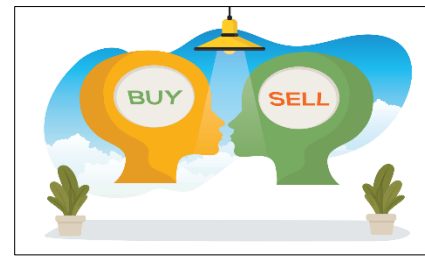
### STAGE OF GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION IN BELOW-PAR STATES (%)



## Central Counterparty Clearing House

### Context

Recently, the European Union's financial markets regulator **European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA)** said it will **withdraw recognition** of six Indian clearing bodies or central counterparties (CCPs).



### Key Highlights

- Reason for Derecognition :**
  - The ESMA wants to supervise these CCPs.
  - However, Indian regulators are not in favour of as they feel that these entities have robust risk management and there is no need for a foreign regulator to inspect them
- Central Counterparties (CCPs)**
- A CCP is a **third country** can **provide clearing services to European banks** only if it is recognized by the ESMA.

- CCPs **perform two main functions** as the intermediary in a market transaction-
  - Clearing and settlement.
  - Guarantee the terms of a trade.
- CCP is a system provider**, who by way of novation interposes between system participants in the transactions admitted for settlement, thereby **becoming the buyer to every seller and the seller to every buyer**, for the purpose of effecting settlement of their transactions.
- A CCP is **authorised by the RBI** to operate in India under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.**

## E-waste Management Rules 2022

### Context

Recently, **The government notified E-waste (management) rules 2022**, that will come into force from **1 April, 2023.**



### Face to Face Centres

## ❖ Key Highlights

### • Application :

- These rules apply to every manufacturer, producer refurbisher, dismantler, and recycler involved in the manufacture, sale, transfer, purchase, refurbishing, dismantling, recycling, and processing of e-waste listed in Schedule I.
- This is applicable to all electrical devices and radiotherapy equipment, nuclear medicine equipment, and accessories, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), air conditioners, microwaves, and iPad among others.
- The rule does not apply to waste batteries, packaging plastics, micro-enterprises, and radioactive waste, as covered under the provisions of the law.

### • Restrictions :

- The government has restricted the use of hazardous substances in manufacturing electrical and electronic equipment (EEE).
- It mandates reducing the use of lead, mercury, cadmium among others in electronic equipment manufacturing.

### • Compliance :

- The Central Pollution Control Board shall conduct random sampling of electrical and electronic equipment placed on the market to monitor and verify the compliance of reduction of hazardous substances provisions.

### • Extended Producer Responsibility Certificates :

- This will allow the offsetting of e-waste responsibility to a third party.
- CPCB must generate an extended producer responsibility certificate through the portal in favor of a registered recycler.

### • Role of Manufacturers :

- It is the responsibility of the manufacturer to collect e-waste generated during manufacture and to ensure its recycling or disposal.

### ❖ About E-Waste

- It refers to all items of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and its parts that have been discarded by their owner as waste without the intent of re-use.
- Only **22.7%** of the e-waste out of the total **10,14,961.21 tonnes** generated in 2019-20 in India was collected, dismantled, and recycled or disposed off.
- **95% of e-waste in India** is recycled by the informal sector
- This e-waste is composed of **21 types of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE)** notified Under the **E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016**.
- **India is the world's third largest generator** of e-waste after China and the US.
- **Adverse Impact of E-Waste on Health :**
  - Toxins' harmful health impact on humans includes **damage to the brain, heart, liver, kidneys, and skeletal system**.
  - They can also have a **significant effect on neurological and reproductive systems**, resulting in sickness and birth abnormalities.

## News in Between the Lines

### Jagdamba Sword



### ❖ Context

- The Maharashtra government has announced that it is working to bring back the sword of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj from London to India by 2024.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The year 2024 will mark the completion of 350 years of the coronation of the Maratha king. Shivaji was crowned emperor of his realm at Raigad fort on **June 6, 1674**.
- According to a book, '*Shodh Bhavani Talwaricha*', written by historian **Indrajit Sawant**, the Chhatrapati of Karveer, Shivaji IV was in possession of the sword which was used by Shivaji Maharaj.
- It was given to **Edward, the Prince of Wales** (the later King Edward VII), by Shivaji IV in **1875-76**.
- Shivaji IV was barely 11 years old then. Like many other Indian kings of the time, he was forced by the British to "gift" valuable presents. Prince Edward was especially fond of collecting weapons.
- The meeting between the two was held in Mumbai, and as a return gift, the Prince of Wales presented another sword to Shivaji IV, which is now at the New Palace Museum in Kolhapur.
- The sword is now part of the **Royal Collection Trust at Saint James's Palace** in London.

### Dropbox Facility

### ❖ Context

- The **United States** has announced a significant liberalisation of the visa process for Indian citizens in multiple categories.

## Face to Face Centres

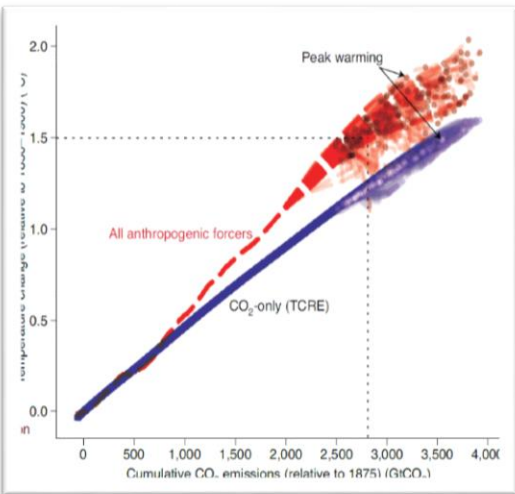




### ❖ Key Highlights

- A drop box is not literally a box, but a **time slot for the submission of the visa application** along with the required documentation, that is given by the Embassy.
- The drop box concept is essentially a **bypassing of the interview stage** subject to certain conditions.
- In case a person has already obtained a visa in a certain category, she/he becomes eligible for interview waiver.
- The categories include **student visas, business, tourist visas, and skilled worker visas.**
- Since getting an in-person interview appointment with a US Embassy visa official may be time-consuming, the move will significantly bring down waiting time for US visas in days to come.
- At present, **India ranks third - after Mexico and China - in terms of the total number of visas issued by the US.**

### Global Carbon Project



### ❖ Context

- The Global Carbon Project has released a **new report at COP27 regarding global carbon dioxide emissions.**

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The project is a global research project, **established in 2001**, that comes up with **country level estimates of CO2 emissions every year** during the climate conference.
- According to the report, **the total carbon dioxide emissions, excluding those from land use changes and deforestation, are likely to be around 36.6 billion tonnes, about one per cent higher than the previous year.**
- CO2 released from land use changes like deforestation would likely contribute another **3.9 billion tonnes.**
- **India is estimated to see the biggest rise in its CO2 emissions, about 6 per cent from last year.** The emissions are **driven mostly by a 5 per cent increase in coal emissions.**
- Emissions are expected to **decrease** by about one per cent in **China**, the world's largest emitter, and in the **European Union** which, as a group, is the third biggest emitter.
- **The United States, the world's second biggest emitter, is projected to see an increase by 1.5 per cent.**

### World's Longest River Cruise



### ❖ Context

- The government proposes to launch the **world's longest luxury river cruise - from Varanasi to Dibrugarh via Bangladesh - next year.**

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The **50-day Ganga Vilas cruise** will set sail from **Varanasi** on 10 January and cover 4,000 km, passing through Kolkata and Dhaka before reaching **Bogibeel** in Dibrugarh district of Assam on 1 March.
- It will cover **27 river systems** and visit over **50 tourist sites** including World Heritage Sites.
- This will be **the single largest river journey by a single river ship in the world.**
- It is expected to be run on a **PPP model.** The operators will decide the ticket price based on a cost-plus basis with no intervention from the Centre.
- The cruise will cover almost **1,100 km in Bangladesh** before re-entering India via the **Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route**, which has already opened trade and transit channels.
- **River cruises are already running** on National Waterway 1 (NW-1) (Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hoogly), NW-2 (Brahmaputra) and NW-3 (West Coast Canal).

### Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA)

### ❖ Context

- Recently, **nine countries at the UN COP27 climate summit, joined The Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA)** to boost offshore windpower.

### Face to Face Centres





### ❖ Key Highlights

- **Nine countries includes** : Britain, Germany, the United States, Japan, Belgium, Colombia, Ireland, Norway and the Netherlands.
- **IRENA** and the **International Energy Agency (IEA)** predict that offshore wind capacity will "**need to exceed 2000GW in 2050**, from just over **60GW today**" to help prevent temperatures from rising by more than **1.5 degrees Celsius** above the pre-industrial era.
- To do this, **GOWA aims to reach a total of "at least 380GW installed capacity"** by the end of the decade.

### ❖ About GOWA

- It was **established by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)**, Denmark and the Global Wind Energy Council.
- **Objective** : To creating a global driving force for the uptake of offshore wind through political mobilisation and the creation of a global community of practice.

## Measles



### ❖ Context

- Mumbai is currently witnessing an **outbreak of measles**.

### ❖ Measles

- **About** :
  - Measles or as it is called '**khasra**', is a highly **contagious viral disease** which affects mostly children.
  - It is one of the **leading causes of death and disability among young children**.
- **Symptoms** :
  - Symptoms appear **around 10 to 14 days after** exposure to the virus.
  - The main symptoms are **fever, dry cough, running nose, sore throat, and rash**.
- **Transmission** : Measles spreads **by coughing and sneezing, close personal contact** or direct contact with infected nasal or throat secretions.
- **Treatment** : There is **no specific treatment** for measles but **there is a vaccine to stay protected** from the disease.
  - The WHO recommends immunization for all children with two doses of the measles vaccine, either alone, or in a measles-rubella (MR) or measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) combination.
  - As per the guidance of the **National Health Mission**, in India, measles vaccination is given under the **Universal Immunisation Programme** at **9-12 months of age** and the second dose at **16-24 months of age**.

## Interest-Free Banking



### ❖ Context

- Recently, **Pakistan's** Finance Minister announced that the government would introduce **interest-free banking in the country**.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- Interest free banking is a narrow concept that **denotes a number of banking operations which avoid interest**.
- **Riba** is the Islamic term for interest charges on loans, and according to the current interpretation, covers all interest - not just excessive interest.
- Under Islamic law, a **Muslim is prohibited from paying and accepting interest** on a predetermined rate.
- As per Islamic banking, **money can only be parked in a bank without interest** and cannot be used for speculative trading, gambling, or trading in prohibited commodities such as alcohol or pork.
- **Bank Working Without Levying Interest** :
  - **Ijarah contract**- A bank purchases the asset on behalf of the client and allows its usage for a fixed rental rate. After a mutually agreed time, the ownership of the asset is transferred to the client.
  - **Murabaha**- A sale on mutually agreed profits.
  - **Musharaka**- It is a joint investment by the bank and the client.

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## Face to Face Centres

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