

7. Short news

1.Green Hydrogen

India plans to cut green hydrogen production costs from USD 4.5 to USD 1 per kg by 2030 under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, aiming to become the world's lowest-cost producer. The Mission was launched in January 2023 with an initial outlay of ₹19,744 crore until Financial Year 2029-30

Green Hydrogen

Definition - Green hydrogen is hydrogen fuel produced using renewable energy mainly solar and wind through electrolysis, generating zero carbon emissions during production.

Advantages -

1. Enables deep decarbonisation in hard-to-abate sectors like steel, cement, fertilisers and heavy transport.
2. Reduces dependence on fossil fuels and enhances long-term energy security.
3. Supports clean industrial growth and aligns with global net-zero pathways.
4. Creates opportunities for advanced manufacturing, green jobs, and innovation.

Factors Affecting Production Cost - Electricity Cost - Cheaper renewable power is the single biggest determinant of green hydrogen affordability. Electrolyzer Cost - Lower capital costs and improved efficiency is expected with scale which can directly reduce production expenses. Transmission & Distribution Charges - High grid charges inflate final costs; waivers or reductions are essential for competitiveness. Government Incentives - Subsidies, tax credits, and reduced duties on renewable energy and electrolyzers significantly cut overall cost. Capacity Factor - Higher electrolyzer operating hours lower per-kg cost by spreading capital and maintenance expenses.

2.2030 Commonwealth Games

India has officially secured hosting rights for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, with Ahmedabad ratified as the host city at the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly in Glasgow. Centenary Edition - The 2030 Games will mark the 100th anniversary of the inaugural British Empire Games held in Hamilton, Canada, in 1930.

About the Commonwealth Games

Overview - The Commonwealth Games is an international multi-sport event held every four years, featuring athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations.

Origin - The first Commonwealth Games were held in 1930 in Hamilton, Canada.

Evolution - Originally known as the British Empire Games, the inaugural event brought together athletes from 11 countries and territories. Renamed over time as the British Empire and Commonwealth Games, then the British Commonwealth Games, and finally the Commonwealth Games in 1978.

Organised by - The Games are overseen by Commonwealth Sport, (HQ - London).

Participants - Birmingham 2022 CWG featured 72 teams, including the 54 Commonwealth of Nations countries and 18 territories.

Unique Features - Includes both Olympic sports (athletics, swimming, boxing) and Commonwealth-specific sports, such as Netballs, Lawn bowls, Rugby sevens, etc.

Last edition (2022 Birmingham) - Medal table topped by Australia, followed by England, Canada, India, and New Zealand.

India and the Commonwealth Games – India first competed in the II British Empire Games in 1934. India has hosted the Games once in New Delhi (2010). Host nations may propose up to two new/traditional sports. Strategic Implications – Hosting the 2030 Games aligns with India's ambition to bid for the 2036 Summer Olympics.

3. Goa Tiger Reserve

A Supreme Court-appointed committee has recommended a phased creation of the Goa Tiger Reserve.

About the Proposed Goa Tiger Reserve

Background – Originates from a Bombay High Court directive (2023) to notify five protected areas in Goa as a tiger reserve. Triggered by tiger poisoning deaths in 2020 and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) 2016 recommendation for reserve status. Supreme Court's Central Empowered Committee (CEC) – It was appointed after Goa government challenged the 2023 HC order. CEC conducted field visits, consultations with officials, forest dwellers, and NGOs.

Phased Reserve Creation Strategy

Phase 1

Core Zone (Low Human Presence) – Areas contiguous with Karnataka's Kali Tiger Reserve core. It includes – Netravali Wild Life Sanctuary (WLS) (50 households) Cotigao WLS (41 households)

Buffer Zone – Areas touching Kali Tiger Reserve's buffer. It includes – Northern Bhagwan Mahavir WLS (9 households) Bhagwan Mahavir National Park (2 households)

Total Area in Phase 1 – 468.6 sq. km, forming a continuous landscape with Kali Tiger Reserve.

Phase 2 (To Be Considered Later) – To Include Mhadei WLS. Limited boundary contiguity with Kali; requires extensive consultation.

Key Rationale for establishment

Ecological – Ensures connectivity with the Kali Tiger Reserve, enhancing landscape-level conservation. Protects critical corridors for tiger movement.

Social – Minimises displacement concerns by initially selecting regions with fewer households. Emphasises consultation, recognition of rights, and voluntary relocation.

Significance of Tiger Reserve Status

Unlocks enhanced central funding for conservation, research, and habitat improvement.

Establishes core (inviolable) and buffer (human-use compatible) zones for regulated management and reduced animal-human conflict.

4. Slovenia

Recently, the 10th India and Slovenia Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation (JCTEC) meeting was held in New Delhi to review bilateral economic ties and chart a roadmap for stronger trade, investment, and sectoral cooperation.

About Slovenia

Slovenia is a Central European nation with its capital at Ljubljana.

Borders – It shares borders with Austria (north), Italy (west), Hungary (northeast), and Croatia (south/southeast), with a short coastline on the Adriatic Sea.

Major Physiographic

1. The Alps in the north and northwest, including the Julian Alps with Triglav Peak (2,864 m), the country's highest point.
2. The Subalpine region south of the Alps, including the Pohorje range.

3. The Karst region in the southwest, marked by limestone caves and underground rivers.
4. The Subpannonia region in the east and northeast, consisting of fertile river valleys of the Drava, Sava, and Mura.

Coastline - The Slovene Littoral provides a 47-km Adriatic coastline.

Forest Cover - Slovenia is among Europe's most forested countries, with over 50% of its land under forests.

