



# 1. The 14th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM14) and 8th Mission Innovation (MI8)

**Topic: Environment and Ecology**



**In News:** The 14th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM14) and 8th Mission Innovation (MI8) were inaugurated at Goa under the chairpersonship of the Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India.

## More on the Topic:

- The theme for the event is **'Advancing Clean Energy Together'**.

## About Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM):

- The Clean Energy Ministerial is an international clean energy platform.
- India is a member country.
- The current 29 members of the CEM account for 90% of the world's clean power and 80% of global clean energy investments, and the vast majority of public R&D in clean energy technologies.
- The new initiative **CEM-Hubs** was launched at the present Ministerial.
- It is an innovative collaborative initiative involving both the public and private sectors.
- Its primary goal is **to minimize the financial risks associated with investments required for the production of low- and zero-emission fuels** that are intended for transportation within the maritime industry.

## About Mission Innovation:

- Mission Innovation is a **global initiative to accelerate public and private clean energy innovation** to address climate change, make clean energy affordable to consumers, and create green jobs and commercial opportunities.
- It consists of **23 countries and the EU. India is a founding member.**



- **India played a leadership role** in MI Steering Committee and is a member of the Analysis and Joint Research and Business & Investor Engagement sub-groups.
- Funding Opportunity Announcement 2023 for RD&D (research, development, and demonstration) in Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS) under MI 2.0 was launched at the present ministerial.

Source: The Indian Express

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## 2. Ministry of Jal Shakti - Manual for Disaster Management Plan

Topic: Disaster Management



**In News:** Union Minister for Jal Shakti has released the Manual for Disaster Management Plan (DMP).

**More on the Topic:**

- It was developed by the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation**.
- It aims to ensure safety, uninterrupted supply and minimum loss of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) assets and services involving stakeholders at the national, state, district and village levels.
- The plan is developed based on **the Advisory issued by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** which under **Section 37 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005** desires every Ministry/ Department to develop its disaster plan to counter and be prepared for any emergency arising in future.



### Key provisions of the Disaster Management Plan (DMP):

- **Preparedness:** Emphasizing capacity building, strategically pre-positioning supplies and service providers, engaging communities, conducting risk assessments, and implementing early warning systems are all crucial elements of preparedness.
- **Response:** Disaster response entails providing emergency services during or shortly after a disaster. Its primary objectives are to preserve lives, mitigate health consequences, ensure public safety, and address essential needs.
- Specifically, in the case of a **WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) disaster response**, immediate actions are taken to restore water supply, address water quality concerns, and implement sanitation and hygiene solutions.
- **Recovery and Reconstruction:** Recovery and Reconstruction encompass the process of reinstating and enhancing, if necessary, the facilities, livelihoods, and living conditions of the communities affected by a disaster.
- In the context of WASH, this entails not only restoring water, sanitation, and hygiene systems to their pre-disaster state but also adopting a **"build back better" approach** to make them more resilient against similar future disasters.
- The aim is to improve these systems, ensuring they are less vulnerable and better equipped to withstand potential challenges.
- **Mitigation:** Mitigation involves the implementation of measures **to reduce the vulnerability of WASH infrastructure and services** to potential future disasters.
- **Assessment:** Assessment involves three distinct types of evaluations that should be carried out at different stages:
  - **a) Before the disaster:** A Hazard-Vulnerability-Capacity mapping is conducted to identify the most essential preparedness activities required. This helps in understanding the potential hazards, vulnerabilities, and existing capacities within the community.
  - **b) During Response:** A Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) is performed, typically completed within a day, to swiftly identify and address the immediate needs of the affected population. It provides crucial insights during the initial response phase.
  - **d) During Recovery & Reconstruction:** A detailed Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) is undertaken to assess the long-term requirements of the community. This evaluation helps in "building back better" by addressing damaged infrastructure and updating service delivery mechanisms to enhance resilience against future disasters.

Source: The Indian Express

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### 3. Global Biofuel Alliance

**Topic: International Relations**



**In News:** A consultation event was organized to discuss and provide recommendations on Global Biofuel Alliance.

#### **More on the Topic:**

- This initiative **aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance energy security, stimulate rural economies, and align with global climate goals.**
- Under India's G20 Presidency, one of the key priorities is to promote cooperation and accelerate the adoption of sustainable biofuels, particularly in the transportation sector.
- **Brazil, India, and the United States, as leading biofuel producers and consumers,** are working together towards the development of a Global Biofuels Alliance along with other interested countries.
- The Alliance shall work in collaboration with and complement the relevant existing regional and international agencies as well as initiatives in the bioenergy, bioeconomy, and energy transition fields more broadly, including the Clean Energy Ministerial Biofuture Platform, the Mission Innovation Bioenergy initiatives, and **the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP).**

**Source: PIB**

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## 4. African Union (AU)

Topic: International Relations



**In News:** India's G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposal to make the African Union a permanent member of the G-20 has received an overwhelming response from the grouping.

**More on the Topic:**

- The African Union is a **continental union consisting of 55 member states located on the continent of Africa.**
- The AU was announced in **the Sirte Declaration in Sirte, Libya, in 1999**, calling for the establishment of the African Union.
- It has been officially launched in 2002 as a successor to the Organisation of African Unity.
- AU is Head Quartered in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.**

**Source: The Hindu**

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## 5. Lokamanya Tilak

**Topic: Personalities in News**



**In News:** The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has paid tributes to Lokamanya Tilak on his Jayanti and said that the story of his courage, struggle and dedication to the freedom movement will always inspire the countrymen.

### More on the Topic:

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak has been referred to as "**the Maker of Modern India**" by Mahatma Gandhi, and Jawaharlal Nehru has hailed him as "**the Father of the Indian Revolution**".
- However, the epithet Tilak is most identified with is '**Lokmanya**' (**beloved of the people**), and it also best encapsulates his contribution to the Indian freedom struggle: taking the movement to the masses.
- Tilak has been criticised for giving the freedom struggle a communal shade — his mass mobilisation programmes like the celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi and Shivaji Jayanti revolved around Hindu festivals and heroes — and for his conservative stand on women's emancipation and caste reforms.
- But in the words of Gandhi, "**No man preached the gospel of Swaraj with the consistency and the insistence of Lokmanya**".
- It was in this unstinting pursuit of swaraj (self-governance, or freedom from foreign rule) that Tilak uttered his famous line: "**Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it**".

### Highlights of his contributions:

- In response to **Lord Curzon's Partition of Bengal in 1905**, Tilak played a major role in promoting the **Swadeshi Movement** to counter the British strategy of dividing and weakening the Indian nationalist movement.

- In 1916, He has co-founded the **All India Home Rule League with G. S. Khaparde and Annie Besant**, which aimed to achieve self-rule for India and played a vital role in rallying public support for the freedom movement.

#### Important Literary Works:

- "The Arctic Home in the Vedas"
- "The Orion"
- **"Shrimadh Bhagavad Gita Rahasya"** (The Secret of the Bhagavad Gita)
- Newspapers: Kesari (Marathi) and Mahratta (English)

Source: The Indian Express

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## 6. Yellow Sea

Topic: Geography



**In News:** North Korea has fired several cruise missiles into the Yellow Sea.

#### More on the Topic:

- The Yellow Sea is a marginal sea located between mainland China and the Korean Peninsula.
- It is part of the Northwest Pacific Ocean and is known for its yellowish-brown colour, which is attributed to the vast amount of sediment carried by the numerous rivers that flow into it.
- To the northwest, the Yellow Sea is **connected to the Bohai Sea through the Bohai Strait**.
- It opens south into the Korea Strait, leading **to the East China Sea**.



- The Yellow Sea is an important body of water for both China and South Korea, supporting fishing, shipping, and other economic activities.

Source: Business Standard

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## 7. The Batagaika Crater

Topic: Geography



**In News:** The Batagaika crater, the world's biggest permafrost crater in Russia's Far East, is thawing.

**More on the Topic:**

- It threatens Russian towns and cities and the planet, as scientists have noted that the **"enormous quantity" of organic carbon released due to this thawing into the atmosphere may further fuel global warming.**

**About Thermafrost:**

- Permafrost refers to a **type of ground that remains continuously frozen for two or more consecutive years.**
- It consists of **soil, rock, and other materials that remain at or below freezing temperatures (0 degrees Celsius or 32 degrees Fahrenheit) for extended periods, often for thousands of years.**
- Permafrost is **typically found in polar regions like the Arctic and some high-altitude mountainous areas.**
- This frozen ground plays a crucial role in shaping the landscape and ecosystem of these regions.
- It affects **vegetation growth, and hydrology, and even contributes to the stability of buildings and infrastructure.**





- However, **due to climate change, permafrost is under threat**, as rising temperatures can cause it to thaw, leading to various environmental and engineering challenges.
- Thawing permafrost can release greenhouse gases like methane and carbon dioxide, potentially exacerbating global warming.

**Thawing:**

- Thawing refers to **the process of melting or defrosting something that was previously frozen.**
- When temperatures rise above freezing point, substances such as **ice or frozen ground, like permafrost, start to thaw and return to a liquid or unfrozen state.**
- Thawing can occur naturally **due to warmer weather or artificially through various methods such as heating or using chemical agents.**
- In the context of permafrost, thawing can have significant impacts on the environment, ecosystems, and infrastructure in polar and high-altitude regions.

**Source: The Hindu**

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