

1. UN Action agenda on Internal Displacement

Topic: Social Justice

In News: United Nation (UN) secretary-general launched action agenda on Internal Displacement.

More on the Topic:

- The Action Agenda sets out 31 commitments by the UN system to better resolve, prevent and address internal displacement crises.
- It also includes calls to member states, international financial institutions, the private sector and other actors.
- UN secretary-general had appointed a time-bound **Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement**.
- The Special Adviser **will work in concert with a Steering Group on Solutions to Internal Displacement**, which will engage at the global and country levels to drive stepped-up action and one-UN approaches to solutions.

THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ACTION AGENDA ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Follow-Up to the Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement



The Action Agenda on Internal Displacement has three overarching goals:

- To help internally displaced persons find durable solutions
- To better prevent future displacement crises
- To ensure stronger protection and assistance for those currently facing displacement.
- These three goals are interlinked. No solution is sustainable if another crisis is looming.
- No assistance will be sufficient if underlying drivers remain unresolved. And prevention cannot succeed if past crises have not been addressed.

India Internal Displacement - Statistics

- **India saw 4.9 million internal displacements last year**, according to a June 2022 UN report based on data provided by the Switzerland-based non-profit Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.
- **The country ranked third in terms of most internal displacements** due to disasters after China (6 million) and the Philippines (5.7 million).

Three instances of IDPs in India:

- Adivasis, who bore the brunt of major developmental projects such as big dams
- Coastline dwellers such as those in Satabhaya in Odisha, where seven villages were being swallowed by the sea
- Thousands of tribals in Chhattisgarh who had been forced to migrate to Khammam in Telangana due to the conflict between Maoists and the Salwa Judum

India's IDP:

- India has a policy in place for dam-displaced people.
- But it does not have one for those displaced by political conflict or environmental reasons.
- The right to Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 address development related Internal Displacement.
- Disaster Management Act, 2005 address Disasters related internal displacement..
- India could makes a policy on internal displacement in line with the UN Action Agenda to efficiently tackle Internal Displacement issues.

Source: Indian Express

2. BIS formulates standard for EV batteries

Topic: Science and Technology/ Governance

In News: India's trade with Gulf Cooperation Council is increasing at rapid pace.

More on the Topic:

- The standard IS 17855:2022 for these battery packs and systems is harmonised with ISO 12405-4: 2018.
- The standards have been released for **Test Specifications for Lithium-ion Traction Battery Packs and Systems** (Performance Testing) for Electrically Propelled Road Vehicles.
- **The standard involves dimensions such as:** The basic characteristic of **performance, reliability and electrical functionality for the battery packs and system for either high power or high energy application.**
- Real-life scenarios for an EV such as a parked vehicle (battery is not used for an extended period of time), battery system shipped (stored), battery running at low and high temperatures, among others.



Safety Issues of EV Vehicles:

- Even if few batteries malfunction and cause a short circuit, it can kickstart a chain reaction resulting in a fire, given that a battery pack is tightly packed with a number of Li-ion cells.
- Reliability of Battery Performance (range) as it varies with ambient conditions and age of battery.
- Disposal of EV batteries with concerns over its cost and toxic disposal of the batteries.

About Bureau of Indian Standards:

- BIS came into existence as Indian Standards Institution (ISI) in 1947.

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the **National Standards Body of India under Department of Consumer affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**
- It is established by the **Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016.**
- The Minister in charge of the Ministry or Department having administrative control of the BIS is the ex-officio President of the BIS.

Source: TOI

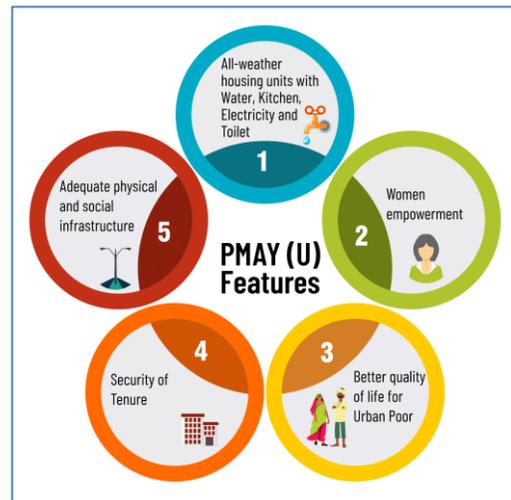
3. PM Awas Yojana

Topic: Government Schemes

In News: Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme has completed seven years recently.

More on the Topic:

- It was launched in the month of June, 2015 with the mission of achieving 'Housing for All' by 2022.
- PMAY- Urban is implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- The scheme is split into two parts: The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban or PMAY-U and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Rural or PMAY-R (It is implemented by Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)).



Details of the Scheme:

- Under the PMAY scheme, **the government provides a subsidy on availing loans for the purchase, construction, extension, or improvement of a house.**
- The scheme is converged with other government schemes to ensure that houses have a toilet, and access to electricity and drinking water.
- The scheme caters to **Economical Weaker Sections (EWS), Lower Income Groups (LIG), and Middle Income Groups (MIG) of the society.**
- It was launched with a target of completing 2.7 crore houses by 2022. So far nearly 67% of the target has been completed.

There are four major components of the scheme:

- **Credit subsidy:** Under the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme of PMAY, the government provides an interest subsidy to the beneficiaries based up on which category of beneficiary they are.
- **Slum redevelopment:** This part of the scheme aims to redevelop slums using land as a resource in partnership with private organisations.

- **Affordable Housing in Partnership:** As part of this scheme, the government provides financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 1.5 lakh to EWS families for the purchase of houses. States and UTs can partner with the private sector to develop such projects.
- **Subsidiary for Beneficiary-led Construction or Enhancement:** This component aims to financially assist EWS families in the construction of a new house or the enhancement of an existing one.

Source: Hindu

4. The 14th BRICS Summit

Topic: International Affairs

In News: The 14th summit of the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) countries was held at Beijing, China recently.

More on the Topic:

- Excerpts from the Summit:
- **Global economic recovery:** BRICS grouping has an important role to play in the **post-COVID global economic recovery**. BRICS nations have a **common vision for global economic governance** and the mutual cooperation can make a useful contribution to the global economic recovery.
- **Russia -Ukraine Crisis:** BRICS nations have supported diplomacy and dialogue between Russia and Ukraine. Three of its members -- China, India and South Africa -- have abstained from voting on a United Nations resolution condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- **Global Security Initiative:** Chinese President asked BRICS countries to support each other and operationalise Global Security Initiative proposed by China.
- **BRICS initiative on Denial of Safe Haven to Corruption:** The summit welcomed the BRICS Initiative on Denial of Safe Haven to Corruption.
- BRICS nations have agreed to promote consumer protection in e-commerce by advancing the implementation of **BRICS Framework for Consumer Protection in E-commerce.**
- The summit welcomed the BRICS Initiative on Denial of Safe Haven to Corruption,
- **Proposed Treaty to combat all terror finance networks:** The treaty proposed is meant for launching multilateral negotiations on an international convention for the suppression of acts of chemical and biological terrorism, at the Conference of Disarmament.
- **BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance:** BRICS nations decided to establish the BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance to work independently and provide intellectual support,



as and when tasked, for knowledge sharing, exchange of experiences and practices and cooperation on finance issues amongst BRICS countries.

About BRICS:

- BRICS is the group composed of the five major emerging countries.
- **Its headquarters is located at Shanghai China.**
- It together represents about 42% of the population, 23% of GDP, 30% of the territory and 18% of the global trade.
- The acronym BRIC was coined by economist ‘Jim O’Neill’ of Goldman Sachs in 2001 to indicate the emerging powers that would be, alongside the United States, the five largest economies of the world in the 21st century.
- **In 2006, BRIC countries started their dialogue**, which since 2009 takes place at annual meetings of heads of state and government.
- **In 2011, with South Africa joining the group, the BRICS reached its final composition, incorporating a country from the African continent.**

Source: Indian Express

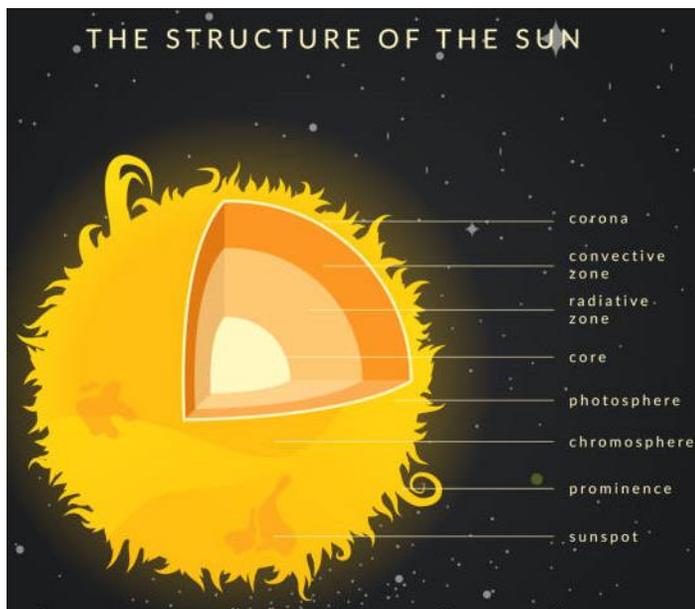
5. Giant Sunspot AR3038 has Doubled in Size

Topic: Science and Technology

In News: A Giant Sunspot AR3038 has Doubled in Size and is Pointed Right at Earth. Scientists have informed that people are in no danger from sunspots like AR3038.

More on the Topic:

- Sunspots are dark, planet-size regions of strong magnetic fields on the surface of the sun.
- They can spawn eruptive disturbances such as solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs).
- **These regions of the sun appear darker because they are cooler than their surroundings.**
- The central dark region, the umbra, is about 6,300 degrees Fahrenheit (3,500 degrees Celsius), whereas the surrounding photosphere is about 10,000 F (5,500 C).



- The frequency and intensity of sunspots visible on the surface indicate the level of solar activity during the 11-year solar cycle that is driven by the sun's magnetic field.
- Sunspots form when concentrations of magnetic field from deep within the sun well up to the surface.

Source: Business Standard

6. Hermit Spyware

Topic: Science and Technology

In News: Google has warned about the spyware Hermit.

More on the Topic:

- This sophisticated spyware tool allows attackers to steal data, private messages and make phone calls.
- Once fully situated on a target's phone, attackers can harvest sensitive information such as call logs, contacts, photos, precise location, and SMS messages.
- Attackers can access **both Android and iOS devices** through the use of clever tricks and drive-by attacks.

Source: Hindu

