

## 1. UN Ocean Conference

Topic: Environment and Ecology



**In News: The Second United Nations Ocean Conference has concluded with Lisbon declaration.**

### More on the Topic:

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> UNOC was co-hosted by Portugal and Kenya.
- Representatives of governments, heads of state, NGO's and other entities came together to achieve a common goal, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No. 14, which strives to protect life below water.
- UNESCO launched its key State of the Ocean Report (pilot edition) during the event. The report recommended following actions,
- Strengthen the ocean science-policy interface.
- Act to create a theoretical basis for sustainable ocean planning and management, within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

### The Lisbon Declaration:

- The Conference saw the unanimous adoption of the Lisbon Declaration, **a suite of science-based and innovative actions, taking into account the capacity challenges facing developing countries, in particular, Small Island Developing States and Least Developing Countries**, at the frontline of the devastating impacts of the ocean emergency.
- As part of it, over 150 countries collectively agreed to scale up science-based and innovative actions to address ocean emergency, supporting the implementation of SDG-14.
- Countries agreed on actions ranging from **strengthening data collection, recognizing the role of indigenous people in sharing innovation and practices to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from international maritime transportation, especially shipping.**

- They also agreed to **promote innovative financing solutions** to achieve sustainable ocean-based economies and encourage women and girls’ meaningful participation in the ocean-based economy.

**India’s Commitment at the conference:**

- India committed to a **Coastal Clean Seas Campaign** and will work toward a **ban on single use plastics**, beginning with plastic bags.

**Sustainable Development Goal No.14:**

- Sustainable Development Goal No.14, it **aims to preserve life below the surface of the water** and is further divided into a number of targets.

**Source: Indian Express**

## 2. 'One country, two systems'

**Topic: International Relations**

# ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS

Hong Kong got special rights when it returned to Chinese rule from Britain in 1997, the reason it's allowing protests of a kind that would not be seen in mainland China.



**In News:** Chinese President has defended his vision of the “one country, two systems” framework of Hong Kong.

**More on the Topic:**

- To put it simply, 'One country, two systems' mean that the Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions, both former colonies, can have different economic and political systems from that of mainland China, while being part of the People’s Republic of China.

- The One Country Two Systems policy was originally proposed by Deng Xiaoping shortly after he took the reins of the country in the late 1970s. Deng’s plan was to unify China and Taiwan under the One Country Two Systems policy. He promised high autonomy to Taiwan.
- China’s nationalist government, which was defeated in a civil war by the communists in 1949, had been exiled to Taiwan.
- Under Deng’s plan, the island could follow its capitalist economic system, run a separate administration and keep its own army but under Chinese sovereignty.
- Taiwan, however, rejected the Communist Party’s offer.
- The island has since been run as a separate entity from the mainland China, though Beijing never gave up its claim over Taiwan.

Source: Indian Express

### 3. Chabahar port

Topic: International Affairs



**In News:** India and Iran has discussed progress in the development of Chabahar port.

**More on the Topic:**

- Chabahar Port is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern Iran, on **the Gulf of Oman**.
- It serves as Iran's only oceanic port, and consists of **two separate ports named Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti**.
- It is only about 170 kilometres west of the Pakistani port of Gwadar, being developed by China; this makes it ideal for keeping track of Chinese or Pakistani military activity based out of Gwadar.

**Strategic Importance:**

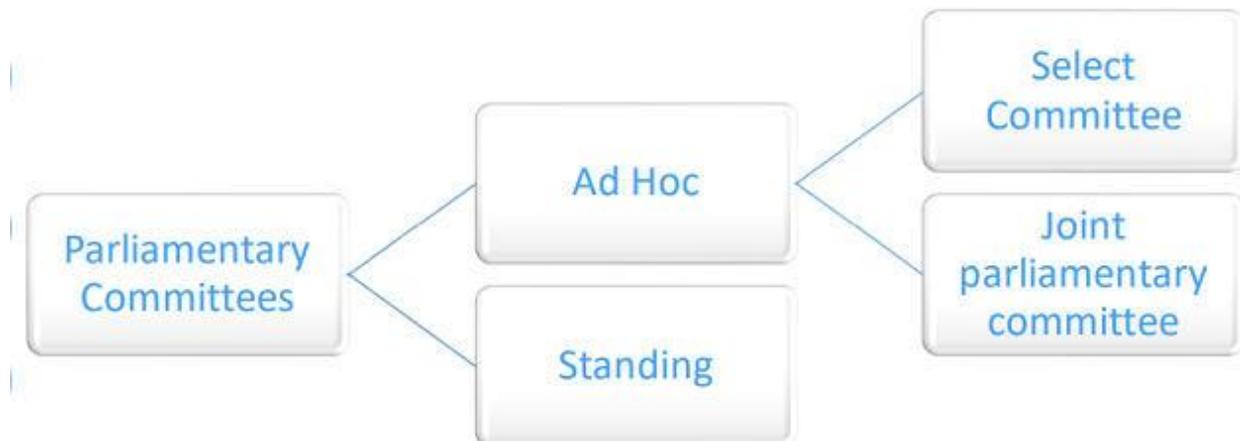
- The port can be **easily accessed from India’s western coast, bypassing Pakistan**.

- It is considered to be a **major transit point to connect with several Central Asian countries.**
- Being close to Afghanistan and the Central Asian countries of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan etc., it has been termed the **“Golden Gate” to these land-locked countries.**
- The port and the rail project (Chabahar to Zahedan to Zarang near Afghanistan border) will enhance connectivity, energy supplies and trade
- The port is also a key link in the **International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**, a multi-modal network of ships, rail and road routes to move freight between India to Russia via Iran.

Source: Indian Express

## 4. Parliamentary committees

Topic: Polity and Governance



**In News:** Ramacharyulu committee constituted for the study of the working of the Rajya Sabha secretariat and other procedural issues has suggested to increase the tenure of the Parliamentary committees from present one year to two years.

**More on the Topic:**

- While a significant amount of Parliament’s work gets done on the floor of the House, it is difficult for Parliament to scrutinise all government activities in the House in a limited time.
- Thus, Parliamentary Committees were constituted to examine proposed legislation, government policies and expenditure in detail.
- They also examine petitions from the public, check whether rules framed by the government are in consonance with Acts of Parliament, and help manage the administration of Parliament.

**Types of Parliamentary Committees:**

- There are various types of Parliamentary Committees in India which look at matters such as government expenditure, legislation, government policies and schemes, and administration of Parliament.
- They can be categorised into Departmentally Related Standing Committees, financial committees, administrative committees, accountability committees, and ad hoc committees.

**Advantages of Having Parliamentary Committees:**

- Committees can get inputs from experts and stakeholders on various matters.
- Their ability to devote more time on each item allows them to examine matters in greater detail.
- They also help parties reach consensus on various issues.

**Challenges faced by Parliamentary Committees:**

- All Bills are not referred to Committees. They are thinly staffed and do not have full-time technical expert support.
- Some Committees may not seek evidence from experts on important Bills.
- Further, attendance of MPs in Committee meetings is about 50%, which is lower than the 84% attendance seen during the Parliament sittings.

Source: Indian Express

## 5. Direct-seeded rice Method

Topic: Environment and Ecology

<b>DIRECT SEEDING OF RICE: WHY?</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce labor input</li> <li>• To tackle labor shortage &amp; high wages</li> <li>• To establish crops on time</li> <li>• To maintain optimum plant population</li> </ul>

**In News:** Punjab’s attempt to bring paddy cultivation under direct-seeded rice (DSR) method didn’t become successful.

**More on the Topic:**

- High temperatures and deficient rainfall are mainly to blame, said farmers.

- Other challenges included closed canals, erratic electricity supply for operating tube wells for irrigation and issue of weeds and rats.

**About DSR Technique:**

- DSR, also called the ‘**broadcasting seed technique**’, is a water-saving method of sowing paddy.
- **Seeds are directly drilled into the fields** in this method. This saves groundwater, as opposed to the traditional water-intensive method, under which rice seedlings are transplanted from a nursery to waterlogged fields.
- In this process, paddy is sown earlier than in the transplantation method. The field is then laser-levelled and pre-sowing (rauni) irrigation is done.
- **Weed management plays a big role** in harvesting a successful crop in DSR. This is because the technique doesn’t require flood irrigation for three weeks after sowing, and weeds tend to grow easily, unlike the conventional method.

Source: Business Standard

## 6. Purchasing Managers Index

**Topic: Economy**

**5 Key Indicators Under Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI)**



**In News:** PM Activity in India’s services sector rose to an 11-year high in June.

**More on the Topic:**

- The Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) is a measure of the prevailing direction of economic trends in manufacturing and service sector.
- The PMI is based on a monthly survey of supply chain managers across 19 industries, covering both upstream and downstream activity.
- PMI is ranked between 0 and 100.



RV Educational Institutions®  
**RV Training Academy**  
(Sardar Vallabh Bhai Academy)

- PMI above 50 represents an expansion, under 50 represents a contraction, and reading at 50 indicates no change.

**Source: Hindu**

---

No 18, B.B.M.P Building  
Kanakapura road,  
Tata Silk Farm, Jayanagar,  
Bengaluru, Karnataka-560028

+91 89710 43904

rvta@rvei.edu.in

*Go, change the world*