

### QUALITY COUNCIL OF INDIA (QCI)

The Quality Council of India is set to celebrate its Silver Jubilee at the Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi



#### About:

- Quality Council of India was set up in 1997, jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry represented by the three premier industry associations i.e. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), with **Mr Ratan Tata as its first Chairman**.
- QCI was established as a National body for Accreditation. It is a **non-profit organization registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860**.
- QCI has launched a **marquee campaign–Gunvatta Se Atmanirbharta**: India’s quality movement. The campaign aims to celebrate India’s quality hubs, create awareness about India’s landmark achievements and inform people about the many initiatives that India is embracing with an aim to enhance the quality of lives of all our citizens.

### ORGANISATION OF THE PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC)

The grouping of the world’s largest oil-producing countries, the OPEC and its allies, together known as OPEC+, decided to cut oil production by 2 million barrels per day (bpd).



#### About:

- Opec’s de-facto leader Saudi Arabia said the cut of 2 million barrels per day (bpd) of output — equal to 2% of global supply — was necessary to respond to rising interest rates in the West and a weaker global economy.

- It is the biggest cut since the height of the Covid pandemic in 2020. The move would reinforce the perception that Russia and Saudi Arabia are working closely together to manage oil markets.

## What is OPEC+?

- Established in 1960 by founding members **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela**, OPEC has since expanded and **now has 13 member states**. With the addition of another 11 allied major oil-producing countries that include Russia, the grouping is known as OPEC+.
- Previously controlled by western-dominated multinational oil companies known as the “**Seven Sisters**,” OPEC sought to give the oil-producing nations greater influence over the global petroleum market.
- They account for **roughly 40 per cent of the world’s crude oil and 80 per cent of the globe’s oil reserves**, according to estimates from 2018. They usually meet every month to determine how much oil the member states will produce.

## Why are they slashing production?

- Oil prices skyrocketed after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February, and have since begun to soften over the past few months, before dropping sharply to under \$90 in September due to fears of a recession in Europe and reduced demands from China because of its lockdown measures.
- OPEC+ members are concerned that a faltering global economy would reduce the demand for oil, and the cuts are seen as a way to protect profits.

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## US-INDIA STRATEGIC CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP (USISCEP)

**Ministerial dialogue of US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (USISCEP) to be held on 7th October 2022.**



### About:

- The revamped USISCEP was launched in accordance with U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership

announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden at the Leaders' Summit on Climate held in April 2021.

## Features

- The SCEP organizes inter-governmental engagement across **five pillars of cooperation**: (1) Power and Energy Efficiency; (2) Responsible Oil and Gas; (3) Renewable Energy; (4) Sustainable Growth and (5) Emerging Fuels.
- **India-US Task Force on Biofuels**: A new India-US Task Force on Biofuels was also announced to build on the scope of work on cooperation in biofuels sector.
- **Renewable Energy**: Strengthen the electric grid in India to support large-scale integration of renewables, including through smart grids, energy storage, flexible resources etc.
- **Gas Task Force**: Rechristening of Gas Task Force to India-US Low Emissions Gas Task Force, which would continue to forge collaboration between U.S. and Indian companies on innovative projects to support India's vision of **gas-based economy**.
- **India Energy Modeling Forum**: Institutionalization of **India Energy Modeling Forum** with the constitution of Six Task Forces for carrying out research and modelling in different areas. Joint Committees have been set up to deliberate on Energy Data Management, Low Carbon Technologies and Just Transition in Coal Sector.
- **(PACE)-R initiative**: Include smart grid and grid storage as part of the second phase of the Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE)-R initiative anchored on the Indian side by the Department of Science & Technology.

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## UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING

The United Nations peacekeeping chief Jean-Pierre Lacroix is undertaking a visit to India, among the largest troop contributing countries for its operations.



### About:

- Jean-Pierre Lacroix will visit India, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan and Japan starting from October 6. He will participate in

a two-day meeting organised by the Challenges Forum, the event CAF22, which brings together leading policymakers, practitioners and academics on key issues linked to peace operations.

- The CAF22 will be co-hosted by the organisation's **Indian partner the United Service Institution of India (USI)**. Under the overarching theme "**Future of Peace Operations**".
- India is one of the largest troop and police contributing countries to U.N. peacekeeping missions and more than 5,700 **Indian peacekeepers are deployed in nine out of 12 U.N. peacekeeping missions at present.**

## UN Peacekeeping

- UN peacekeepers provide security and the political and peace building support to help countries make the difficult, early transition from conflict to peace.
- **There are three basic principles** that continue to set UN peacekeeping operations apart as a tool for maintaining international peace and security.
  1. **Consent of the parties:**
  2. **Impartiality**
  3. **Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.**
- **Role of Security Council:** The United Nations Charter gives the United Nations Security Council the responsibility to maintain international peace. The Security Council authorize peacekeeping operations through Chapter VII authorizations.
- **Financing:** As **all UN Member States share the costs of peacekeeping**, the General Assembly apportions these expenses based on a special scale of assessments, taking into account the relative economic wealth of Member States, with the permanent members of the Security Council required to pay a larger share.
- For its services, UN Peacekeeping has also received the **Nobel Peace Prize**.
- UN peacekeepers are often referred to as **Blue Berets or Blue Helmets** because of their light blue berets or helmets.

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## [NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY 2022](#)

The 2022 Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded to Carolyn R Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and K Barry Sharpless “for the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry”



## About:

- Sharpless was the first scientist to work on ‘**click chemistry**’ – a branch of science that explores the assembly of molecules.
- Meldal and Dr. Sharpless – independently of each other – presented the copper-catalysed azide-alkyne cycloaddition (**CuAAC**), a reaction that is now widely used in fields like medicinal chemistry. The CuAAC reaction is an improved form of the azide-alkyne Huisgen cycloaddition.
- Bertozzi improved the field further by developing **click reactions** that work inside living organisms. These bioorthogonal reactions do not disrupt the normal chemistry of the cell.

## What is click chemistry?

- Click chemistry is a functional field where molecules snap together quickly and efficiently – literally like a click. It is defined as a “set of powerful, highly reliable, and selective reactions for the rapid synthesis of useful new compounds and combinatorial libraries through heteroatom links”.

## Need of Click Chemistry

- Replicating reactions that involve bonds between carbon atoms – that are vital to the existence of life – is expensive and often leads to side reactions and loss of material.
- Instead of trying to make carbon atoms react with each other, Dr. Sharpless’s research focuses on using smaller molecules that already have a complete carbon frame. These molecules can further be linked using oxygen or nitrogen atoms as bridges.
- Simpler reactions, “where there is a strong intrinsic drive for the molecules to bond together”, may avoid the loss of material as well as the unwanted side reactions.



## INDIA EMERGES AS LARGEST PRODUCER OF SUGAR IN WORLD

India emerges as the world's largest producer and consumer of sugar and world's 2nd largest exporter of sugar.



### About

- In Sugar Season (Oct-Sep) 2021-22, a record of more than 5000 Lakh Metric Tons (LMT) sugarcane was produced in the country. Out of this, 35 LMT sugar was diverted to **ethanol production** and 359 LMT sugar was produced by sugar mills.
- Ethanol production capacity of molasses/sugar-based distilleries has increased to 605 crore litres per annum and the progress is still continuing to **meet targets of 20% blending by 2025** under **Ethanol Blending with Petrol (EBP) Programme**.

### Ethanol Blending with Petrol (EBP) Programme

- The EBP programme was launched by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** in 2003, to promote the use of alternative and environment friendly fuels.
- The Government has 10% blending target for mixing ethanol with petrol by 2022 & 20% blending target by 2030. However, considering the encouraging performance, due to various interventions made by the Government since 2014, **the target of 20% ethanol blending was advanced from 2030 to 2025-26**.

### About Ethanol

- Ethanol is an agro-based product, produced from sugarcane, maize, wheat, etc which are having high starch content. In India, ethanol is mainly produced from sugarcane molasses by fermentation process
- Ethanol can be mixed with gasoline to form different blends. As the ethanol molecule contains oxygen, it allows the engine to more completely combust the fuel, resulting in fewer emissions and thereby reducing the occurrence of environmental pollution.
- Since ethanol is produced from plants that harness the power of the sun, **ethanol is also considered as renewable fuel**.

## WHAT ARE THE EU'S NEW LAWS TO REGULATE CONTENT ONLINE, AND HOW DO THEY COMPARE WITH INDIA'S?

### **In News:**

- The European Union (EU) has given final approval to online safety-focused legislation, known as the Digital Services Act (DSA).

### **News Summary**

- EU has given final approval to the Digital Services Act (DSA).
- The law tightly regulates the way intermediaries, especially large platforms such as Google, Meta, Twitter, and YouTube, function in terms of moderating user content.

### **Key features of the Digital Services Act**

- **Faster removals and provisions to challenge**
  - Social media companies will have to add new procedures for faster removal of content deemed illegal or harmful.
  - They will also have to explain to users how their content takedown policy works.
  - The DSA also allows for users to challenge takedown decisions taken by platforms and seek out-of-court settlements.
- **Bigger platforms have greater responsibility**
  - Very Large Online Platforms and Very Large Online Search Engines, that is platforms, having more than 45 million users in the EU, will have more stringent requirements.
  - Hence, the law avoids a one-size fits all approach and places increased accountability on the Big Tech companies.
- **Direct supervision by European Commission**
  - These requirements and their enforcement will be centrally supervised by the European Commission itself.
  - This is to ensure that companies do not sidestep the legislation at the member-state level.
- **More transparency on how algorithms work**



# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- Very Large Online Platforms and Very Large Online Search Engines will face transparency measures and scrutiny of how their algorithms work.
  - They will be required to conduct systemic risk analysis and reduction to drive accountability about the society impacts of their products.
  - **Clearer identifiers for ads and who's paying for them**
  - Online platforms must ensure that users can easily identify advertisements and understand who presents or pays for the advertisement.
  - They must not display personalised advertising directed towards minors or based on sensitive personal data.
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