



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 06-06-2024

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GS-3

4. Green hydrogen: A catalyst for a cleaner energy future for India
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Slovenia

Syllabus: GS-1; Geography- Mapping, GS-2; International Relations

Context

- *Slovenia becomes latest European country to recognize a Palestinian state*



About

- *Slovenia, officially the Republic of Slovenia, is a country in **southern Central Europe**.*
- *Slovenia is bordered by Italy to the west, Austria to the north, Hungary to the northeast, Croatia to the south and southeast, and a short coastline within the Adriatic Sea to the southwest.*
- *Slovenia is in Central Europe touching the Alps and bordering the Mediterranean Sea.*
- **Four major European geographic regions** meet in Slovenia: the Alps, the Dinarides, the Pannonian Plain, and the Mediterranean Sea.
- *Slovenia has a developed economy and is the richest Slavic country by GDP per capita.*
- *Slovenia is also among the top global economies in terms of human capital*

State of Palestine

- *Palestine, officially the State of Palestine, is a country in the **southern Levant** region of West Asia.*
- *It encompasses two **disconnected territories** — the **West Bank and the Gaza Strip**, collectively known as the **Palestinian territories** — within the larger region of Palestine.*
- *The country shares its borders with Israel to north, west and south, Jordan to the east and Egypt to the southwest.*
- *The establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 was accompanied by a war which led to the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and created a large refugee population.*
- *Unsolved remain the question of Palestine's borders, the legal and diplomatic status of Jerusalem, and their right of return.*
- *Despite these challenges, the country remains one of the most highly-educated countries in the Arab world, maintains an emerging economy, and sees frequent tourism.*
- *As of June 2024, Palestine is recognized as a sovereign state by 144 out of 193 member states of the United Nations.*
- *It is also a member of several international organizations, including the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.*
- *It has been a non-member observer state of the United Nations since 2012*

Tele MANAS

Syllabus: GS-2; Government policies and Interventions

Context

- *A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed between the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** and the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** to facilitate collaboration between the two ministries in operating a special cell of Tele MANAS, the National Telemental Health Helpline of MoHFW, as a pilot project for a period of two years at the Armed Forces Medical College in Pune.*

About

- *Tele MANAS is the digital extension of the **District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)**, offering comprehensive, integrated, and inclusive 24/7 tele-mental health services.*
- *The initiative provides a toll-free number, 14416, in each State and Union Territory (UT) for easy access to mental health support.*

- *Currently, there are 51 operational Tele MANAS cells functioning across all 36 States and UTs, offering services in 20 different languages.*

Need

- *Since its launch in October 2022, Tele MANAS has received over 10 lakh calls and is managing more than 3,500 calls daily.*
- *The data indicate a significant demand for **mental health services** and underscores the importance of addressing mental health issues comprehensively and inclusively, particularly in specialised contexts like the Armed Forces.*

Significance

- *Reflecting increased awareness and utilization of mental health services in the country, the Tele-MANAS helpline has seen a steady increase in the number of callers, growing from around 12,000 in December 2022 to over 90,000 in May 2024.*
- *This increase in engagement also underscores the importance of continued investment and expansion of mental health initiatives to ensure that everyone has access to the support they need.*

Way forward

- *Moving forward, integration with initiatives like **e Sanjeevani** will further enhance accessibility and effectiveness of the platform.*
- *By continuing to promote awareness and accessibility, Tele MANAS can further contribute to addressing the mental health challenges facing the nation.*

UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

Syllabus: GS-2: Key International Developments

Context:

- **United Nations votes to end Iraq political mission** established after 2003 U.S.-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein.
- **The UN Security Council** voted to end the UN political mission in Iraq by December 31, 2025.

Background:

- **Mission History:** *The mission was established in 2003 after the U.S.-led invasion to help with humanitarian and reconstruction efforts and restore a representative government.*
- **Resolution Details:** *The mission, known as UNAMI, will continue for a final 19 months. By the end of 2024, a plan will be made for its transition and closure.*
- **Iraq's Request:** *Iraq requested the mission to end, stating their security forces can handle remaining threats from the Islamic State group.*
- **Security and Stabilization:** *The UNSC supports Iraq's efforts to stabilize the country and fight against extremist groups.*
- **Achievements and Support:** *UNAMI helped with political dialogue, elections, human rights, and reintegration of displaced people. The UN remains committed to supporting Iraq's future.*
- **Focus Areas:** *Before closing, UNAMI will help with elections, resolving issues with Kuwait, supporting displaced people, healthcare, economic development, and legal reforms.*
- **International Support:** *The U.S. and Russia emphasized their support for Iraq's sovereignty and the mission's alignment with Iraq's priorities.*

UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

Establishment and Mandate:

- *Established: August 14, 2003, by UN Security Council Resolution 1500.*
- *Mandate: To support Iraq in political, economic, and humanitarian aspects, including promoting inclusive political dialogue, assisting in elections, and coordinating humanitarian aid.*

Key Objectives:

Political Support:

- *Facilitating political dialogue and national reconciliation.*
- *Advising on constitutional and legal reforms.*
- *Supporting free and fair elections.*

Human Rights:

- *Monitoring and reporting on human rights situations.*
- *Providing technical assistance to strengthen rule of law and human rights institutions.*

Humanitarian Assistance:

- *Coordinating humanitarian relief and recovery efforts.*

- *Addressing needs of internally displaced persons and refugees.*

Development and Reconstruction:

- *Assisting in economic reconstruction and development.*
- *Promoting sustainable development and capacity-building.*

Green hydrogen: A catalyst for a cleaner energy future for India

Syllabus: GS-3: Energy sector – Green hydrogen energy.

Context:

- *Based on an article published in the 'Indian Express'.*

Introduction

- *Green hydrogen refers to **hydrogen gas** produced through the **process of electrolysis**, using renewable energy sources such as **wind or solar power**.*
- *Unlike **conventional hydrogen production** methods that rely on fossil fuels, green hydrogen production emits no greenhouse gases, making it a sustainable and environmentally friendly energy carrier.*

Production Methods

- **Electrolysis:** *Electrolysis involves splitting water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen using electricity. When powered by renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind, electrolysis produces green hydrogen without emitting greenhouse gases.*
- **Biomass Conversion:** *Biomass, such as organic waste or agricultural residues, can be converted into hydrogen through thermochemical or biological processes, offering another pathway to green hydrogen production.*
- **Solar Thermochemical Processes:** *These processes use concentrated solar energy to drive chemical reactions that produce hydrogen from water or other feedstocks, providing a renewable and sustainable approach to hydrogen production.*

Advantages of Green Hydrogen

- **Zero Emissions:** *Unlike conventional hydrogen production methods, green hydrogen production emits no greenhouse gases, contributing to efforts to mitigate climate change.*

- **Energy Storage:** *Green hydrogen can be stored and transported easily, making it a valuable energy carrier for balancing intermittent renewable energy sources and ensuring grid stability.*
- **Versatility:** *Green hydrogen can be used in various sectors, including transportation, industry, and power generation, offering a versatile solution for decarbonizing multiple sectors of the economy.*

Challenges in Green Hydrogen Production

- **Cost:** *Currently, the cost of green hydrogen production is higher than that of conventional hydrogen, primarily due to the high cost of renewable energy sources and electrolyzer technology.*
- **Scaling Up:** *Scaling up green hydrogen production to meet the growing demand requires significant investments in infrastructure and technology deployment.*
- **Infrastructure Development:** *The lack of hydrogen infrastructure, including refueling stations and distribution networks, poses a challenge to the widespread adoption of green hydrogen as an energy carrier.*

Green Hydrogen in India: Current Scenario

- **National Green Hydrogen Mission:** *Launched in early 2023, this mission aims to make India a leader in Green Hydrogen production and exports. It has a budget of ₹19,744 crore to support research, manufacturing, and infrastructure development.*
- **Production Target:** *The mission has set an ambitious target of 5 million metric tonnes (MMT) per year of Green Hydrogen production capacity by 2030.*
- **Focus on Renewables:** *Green Hydrogen is produced using electrolysis powered by renewable energy sources like solar and wind. India has a good resource potential for renewables, which is critical for achieving its Green Hydrogen goals.*
- **Shifting from Grey Hydrogen:** *Currently, most of India's hydrogen supply is grey hydrogen, produced from fossil fuels and emitting CO₂. The Green Hydrogen Mission aims to replace this with a clean alternative.*

Potential Applications of Green Hydrogen in India

Transportation Sector

- **Fuel Cell Vehicles:** *Green hydrogen can power fuel cell vehicles, offering a zero-emission alternative to internal combustion engine vehicles.*
- **Hydrogen-Powered Trains:** *Hydrogen fuel cells can also be used to power trains, providing an environmentally friendly solution for rail transportation.*

Industrial Sector

- **Refining:** *Green hydrogen can be used in the refining industry to produce cleaner fuels and reduce carbon emissions.*
- **Chemical Production:** *Hydrogen is a key feedstock for various chemical processes, and green hydrogen can help reduce the carbon footprint of the chemical industry.*

Energy Storage and Grid Balancing

- **Integration with Renewable Energy:** *Green hydrogen can store excess renewable energy generated during periods of low demand and release it when needed, helping to balance the grid.*
- **Power-to-Gas Technology:** *Green hydrogen can be converted back into electricity using fuel cells or combustion engines, providing a means of storing renewable energy for grid-scale applications.*

Challenges and Solutions

Cost Reduction Strategies

- **Technological Innovation:** *Continued research and development efforts can lead to advancements in electrolyzer technology and other components of the green hydrogen value chain, driving down costs.*
- **Economies of Scale:** *Scaling up green hydrogen production and deployment can lower unit costs through economies of scale and increased manufacturing efficiency.*

Infrastructure Development

- **Hydrogen Refueling Stations:** *Investments in hydrogen refueling infrastructure are essential to support the widespread adoption of fuel cell vehicles and other hydrogen-powered technologies.*
- **Pipelines and Distribution Networks:** *Developing a network of pipelines and distribution infrastructure is crucial for transporting and delivering green hydrogen to end-users efficiently.*

Public Awareness and Acceptance

- **Education and Outreach Programs:** *Public awareness campaigns can help educate consumers and stakeholders about the benefits of green hydrogen and dispel*

Practice Question

Q. What are the socioeconomic implications of India's transition to green hydrogen, considering technological challenges and policy interventions?(10 marks, 150 words)

World Environment Day

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Environment.

Context:

- *World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated annually on June 5th.*

Overview

- **Date:** *Annually on June 5th*
- **Purpose:** *Raising awareness about environmental issues and promoting sustainable practices*
- **Established by:** *United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1972*
- **First Observed:** *1973*



Key Themes and Focus Areas

- **2024 Host:** *Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*
- **2024 Theme:** *"Our Land, Our Future, We Are Generation Restoration"*
- **Focus Areas:** *Land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience*
- **Significance:** *Emphasizes the importance of these issues for sustainable development*

Historical Context and Significance

Establishment: *The United Nations General Assembly established WED on June 5th, 1972*

Annual Themes:

- *Chosen to focus on various environmental issues*
- *Past themes include pollution, illegal wildlife trade, air pollution, and food waste*

Focus:

- *Land restoration*
- *Desertification*
- *Drought resilience*

Alignment with UN Initiatives:

- *Part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)*
- *Aims to protect and revive ecosystems globally, essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030):

- *A global initiative for ecosystem protection and revival*
- *Essential for sustainable development and achieving SDGs*