

SDG's VLR



- Bhopal has become the first city in India to join the growing global movement on the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) following the release of its Voluntary Local Review (VLR).
- In 2015, the 193 member states of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets as a plan of action for 'people', 'the planet', and 'prosperity'.
- India has made commendable efforts toward the adoption, localization, and achievement of the SDGs. NITI Aayog presented India's second VNR at the HLPF convened in 2020.
- India's Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) has published a National Indicator Framework (NIF) for the review and monitoring of the SDG.

- Cities are the most important stakeholders in Agenda 2030 as at least 65% of the 169 targets could not possibly be achieved without the engagement of local urban stakeholders.
- A VLR is a tool to demonstrate how local actions are leading the way in equitable and sustainable transformations for people and building a coalition of partners toward this endeavour.
- Bhopal's VLR is the result of a collaboration between the Bhopal Municipal Corporation, UN-Habitat, and a collective of over 23 local stakeholders.
- It has mapped 56 developmental projects to the SDGs across the three pillars, of 'people' (SDGs 1, 3, 4,5), 'planet' (SDGs 6,13,15), and 'prosperity' (SDGs 7,8,11).



THE HINDU

G7 AND G20



- Mr. Modi has committed to amplifying, in conversations the impacts of sanctions imposed by the G-7 countries on the developing world, including on food, fertilizer, and energy security.
 - These rules need to be made public on the banks' websites and banks will also have to disclose regular information about the amount of green deposits receive.
 - Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has decided to accept Japan's invitation to attend the G-7 summit in person, and all eyes in India will be on a possible meeting between him and Mr. Modi, which would be a first since the Ukraine war began.
 - Apart from the Russia Ukraine tussle, India will be at the forefront as G-7 and G-7+ countries discuss debt sustainability and help countries such as Sri Lanka to avoid a "debt trap".
 - It will also be a key speaker on issues such as building supply chain reliability, spearheading alternative energy coalitions, and seeking infrastructure and development aid in the region.
 - Finally, India's unique voice, as a nuclear power that is not a member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty regime, yet has built an impeccable
- While all G-7 countries the U.S., the U.K., Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the EU are united in their efforts to sanction Russia further, it will be left to India, which has walked a line of fine balance thus far, to temper some of that language, particularly if joint communiques are sought with the outreach countries including South Korea, Australia, Brazil, Vietnam, Indonesia, Comoros and the Cook Islands.
- Neither Russia nor China, the "elephants in the room", are actually invited, and India's position will be all the more important for the "Voice of the Global South"

record in nuclear restraint, will be heard as Japan seeks to send a united message on non-proliferation from Hiroshima which was devastated by an American atomic bomb in 1945.



THE HINDU

Arsenic in water

- Though it is well known that ingesting high levels of arsenic from contaminated groundwater in India has been linked to a range of ailments, a recent peer-reviewed study suggests that even low levels of arsenic consumption may impact cognitive function in children, adolescents, and young adults.
- Also found that those exposed to arsenic had reduced grey matter (brain tissue that is vital to cognitive functions) and weaker connections within key regions of the brain that enable concentration, switching between tasks, and temporary storage of information.

- “Chronic exposure to arsenic could be creating a ‘silent pandemic’ affecting large portions of the global population



THE HINDU

Oil in EU

- Days after saying the European Union (EU) had to curb the import of refined petroleum products from India, the EU’s top foreign affairs and security official, Josep Borrell, suggested that EU entities buying refined products from India were primarily accountable for the leakage of Russian oil based products into the EU.



THE HINDU

