

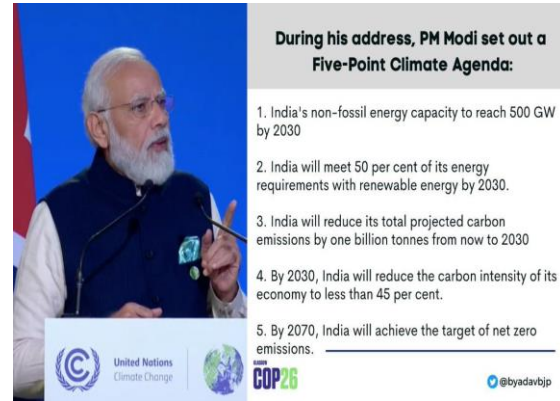
## Chip Industry

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made chip manufacturing a top priority for India's economic strategy as he wants to "usher in a new era in electronics manufacturing" by luring global companies.
- It is, therefore, clear that building semiconductors domestically is crucial for the government's vision to develop a domestic electronics supply chain and eventually reduce its imports from foreign countries, especially China which despite its own challenges remains to be the number one destination for such manufacturing.
- It is a pressing time for India to venture into electronics manufacturing, with chips being an important part of the puzzle all electronics items have semiconductor chips in them, and as more companies try to diversify their bases from China, India has an opportunity to emerge as a reliable destination.
- While listing the reform measures and tax incentives the government offers to the companies wanting to set up their factories in the country
- Internet penetration and fiber infrastructure in the country, availability of talent, and huge market, besides a friendly and attractive corporate tax system. He

also underlined the political stability in the country

## THE HINDU

### Panchamrit



- The country achieved its installed electric capacity from non-fossil fuel sources nine years ahead of the target of 2030.
- India was one of the top five countries in the world in terms of installed renewable energy capacity and added that the country had set a target of attaining 'Net Zero' by 2070.
- Mr. Modi stressed the need to enhance action on commitments under the 'UN Climate Convention' and the 'Paris Agreement' to help the Global South fulfill its developmental aspirations in a climate-friendly way.
- Referring to the 'Small Island States' as 'Large Ocean Countries', Mr. Modi said the oceans were a crucial economic resource for them while also supporting the livelihoods of

over three billion people across the globe. He stressed the importance of responsible use and management of oceanic resources.

## **THE HINDU**

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### **Earth is boiling**

- The rapid shift from traditional local grain cultivation to monoculture plantations of mango and cashew in the Sahyadri plateaus of Maharashtra is impacting elusive amphibians, insects, and reptiles that live under a crop of loose rocks
- The loose rocks shelter these animals some endemic and threatened from scorching heat during summer and heavy monsoon rains.
- They have evolved to survive on the rocky plateaus, but their adaptability to changing conditions may not be enough for the pace of shift in the land-use pattern.
- The rapid expansion of mango orchards has resulted in the conversion of more than 25,000 hectares of lateritic plateaus.

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### **IR**

- Hong Kong court rejected a government-requested ban on broadcasting or distributing the protest song Glory to Hong Kong, in

a landmark decision that rejected a challenge to freedom of expression in the city.

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### **MERS**

- The earth had passed from a warming phase into an “era of global boiling”,
- July is set to be the hottest month in the last 12,000 years. This was a “disaster” for the whole planet,
- With ocean temperatures on the rise and the Central Equatorial Pacific Ocean transitioning from La Niña conditions where average sea surface temperatures are below normal to El Niño conditions, the opposite, it was widely expected that temperatures would be warmer than that in the last three years (when La Niña prevailed).
- However, it is the distribution and impact of the 16.95° C, which includes temperature in northwest China touching 52° C; wildfires in Greece, and the baking heat in the United States Southwest.
- The extraordinarily high rains in north and western India, while largely due to prevailing monsoon conditions, were also due to the warm air increasing atmospheric capacity to hold moisture resulting in short torrential bursts, causing floods and devastation

- This is a viral respiratory infection caused by Middle East respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus (MERS-CoV).
- MERS-CoV is a virus in the coronavirus family believed to be originally from bats.
- Humans are typically infected by camels, either during direct contact or indirectly through respiratory droplets
- The commission submitted its 552-page report to the Centre in August 2011.
- The report recommended classifying 64 percent of the Western Ghats, spread over six states, into Ecologically Sensitive Zones called ESZ 1, ESZ 2, and ESZ 3. It also recommended designating the entire region as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA).
- Almost all developmental activities like mining, construction of thermal power plants, and dams were to stop along with the decommissioning of similar projects that have completed their shelf life in ESZ 1. It said that both the Athirappilly and Gundia hydel project sites should not be accorded environmental clearance as they fall in this zone.
- For Goa, WGEEP recommended an indefinite moratorium on new environmental clearances for mining in ESZs 1 and 2, a phasing out of mining in Ecologically Sensitive Zone 1 by 2016, and continuation of existing mining in Ecologically Sensitive Zone 2 under strict regulation with an effective system of social audit.
- In the Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts of Maharashtra, the panel advised that in ESZs 1 and 2, no new polluting (red and orange category) industries, which would include coal-based power plants, should be permitted to be established, and the existing red and orange category industries should be asked to switch to zero pollution by 2016. Further, it found that plains and coastal tracts in these districts were under “severe environmental and social stress”.
- In all the zones, genetically modified crops should not be allowed, the use of plastic bags be prohibited, Special Economic Zones should not be permitted, new hill stations should not be allowed, changing the land use from farmland to non-farm land and the stoppage of diversions of rivers to protect the ecology of the region and public lands should not be converted into private lands.
- The report also suggested a bottom-to-top approach instead of a top-to-bottom approach in governance of the environment, indicating decentralization and more powers to local authorities. It recommended the establishment of a Western Ghats Ecology Authority under the

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, as a professional body to manage the ecology of the region and to ensure its sustainable development.

- Another major recommendation was a ban on growing single commercial crops like tea, coffee, cardamom, rubber, banana, and pineapple, which have led to “fragmentation of forest, soil erosion, and degradation of river ecosystems and toxic contamination of the environment”.
- “A policy shift is urgently warranted curtailing the environmentally disastrous practices and switching over to a more sustainable farming approach in the Western Ghats,” the report stated.
- The panel had urged the Ministry of Environment and Forests to take critical steps to involve citizens, including proactive and sympathetic implementation of the provisions of the Community Forest Resources of the Forest Rights Act.
- It stated that new settlement patterns and development are resulting in hill-cutting and physical changes in slope profile due to roads, terracing, and construction.

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