

11 – 12 – 2021

News: Global Health Security (GHS) Index 2021

## Global Health Security (GHS) Index 2021

- Global Health Security (GHS) Index 2021 has been released by the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins Center.
- It is an assessment and benchmarking of health security and related capabilities across 195 countries.
- The GHS Index assesses countries' health security and capabilities across six categories.

The six categories are as follows:

- **Prevention:** Prevention of the emergence or release of pathogens.
- **Detection and Reporting:** Early detection and reporting for epidemics of potential international concern.
- **Rapid Response:** Rapid response to and mitigation of the spread of an epidemic.
- **Health System:** Sufficient and robust health system to treat the sick and protect health workers.

- **Compliance with International Norms:** Commitments to improving national capacity, financing plans to address gaps, and adhering to global norms.
- **Risk Environment:** Overall risk environment and country vulnerability to biological threats.
- The index measures countries' capabilities from 0-100, with 100 representing the highest level of preparedness. The GHS Index scoring system includes three tiers.
- Countries that score between 0 and 33.3 are in the bottom tier, whereas countries that score between 33.4 and 66.6 are in the middle tier and countries that score between 66.7 and 100 are in the upper or "top" tier.
- India, with a score of 42.8 (out of 100) has slipped by 0.8 points since 2019.
- Three neighbouring countries of India like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives have improved their score by 1-1.2 points.
- The world's overall performance on the GHS Index score slipped to 38.9 (out of 100) in 2021, from a score of 40.2 in the GHS Index, 2019.
- In 2021, no country scored in the top tier of rankings and no country scored above 75.9.

## **News: Global Methane Initiative (GMI)**

- Steering Leadership meeting of Global Methane Initiative (GMI) has been held virtually in which the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shri V.K. Tiwari as the Vice Chairman of this global initiative informed the participants about the work being carried out by India to mitigate the emission of methane.

## **Global Methane Initiative (GMI)**

- The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) is an **international public-private partnership focused on reducing barriers to the recovery and use of methane as a valuable energy source.**
- GMI provides **technical support to deploy methane-to-energy projects** around the world that enable Partner Countries to launch methane recovery and use projects.
- Through these efforts, **GMI is decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air and water quality, improving human health, enhancing energy security, increasing worker safety and expanding economic growth.**
- The initiative currently focuses on five sectors, which are known sources of anthropogenic methane emissions: **agriculture, coal mining, municipal solid waste, municipal wastewater, and oil and gas systems.**

- India along with UK, US and China is a founding partner.

**News:** UN confers Observer Status on Solar Alliance

- The UN General Assembly has conferred Observer Status on the International Solar Alliance (ISA), a historic decision which India said would help provide for a well defined cooperation between the alliance and the UN that would benefit global energy growth and development.

## **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**

- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) serves as the **main deliberative, policy-making, and representative organ** of the UN.
- All 193 Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly, making it the **only UN body with universal representation**.
- UNGA is responsible for the **preparation of UN budget, appointing the non-permanent** members to the Security Council, appointing the Secretary-General of the United Nations, receiving reports from other parts of the UN system, and making recommendations through resolutions.

- **Meets annually** (and on special occasions) under its president or UN secretary-general.
- Headquarters- New York City, USA.
- Voting in UNGA- **2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority on important decisions** like admission and suspension/expulsion of members, recommendations on peace& security .Non major decisions are made on **majority vote**.
- **Each member has one vote**. Countries are seated alphabetically in the General Assembly according to English translations of the countries' names. The country which occupies the front-most left position is determined annually by the Secretary-General via ballot draw. The remaining countries follow alphabetically after it.
- In 2015, UNGA set up the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** to be achieved by 2030 by all Nations.
- Decisions of UNGA are taken through a vote.
- Admission of new members and budgetary matters require a two-thirds majority, while the decision on other issues are taken by a simple majority.
- Each **sovereign state gets one vote** and the **votes are not binding on the membership**, except in budgetary matters.
- The Assembly has no binding votes or veto powers like the UN Security Council.

- Recently, **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** has been conferred the **Observer status** by UNGA.

## **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an **alliance of 121 countries** initiated by **India**, most of them being **sunshine countries**, which lie either completely or partly between the **Tropic of Cancer** and the **Tropic of Capricorn**.
- The primary objective of the alliance is to **work for efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels**.
- The alliance is a **treaty-based (Paris Declaration) inter-governmental organization**.
- ISA is the **nodal agency for implementing One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG)**.
- **Countries that do not fall within the Tropics can join the alliance and enjoy all benefits as other members, with the exception of voting rights**.
- After the United Nations, it is the largest grouping of states world-wide.
- The framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance opened for signatures in **Marrakech, Morocco in November 2016**, and 200 countries have joined.
- The ISA is headquartered in **Gurugram, India**.

- The ISA aims to pave the way for future solar generation, storage and technologies for Member countries' needs by **mobilizing over USD 1000 billion by 2030.**