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News: Daylight Harvesting

- Recently, the **Ministry of Science & Technology** has decided to promote a **unique Start-up in the latest Daylight Harvesting Technology** in order to reduce carbon footprint and improve the building's energy efficiency.

Daylight Harvesting

- Daylight Harvesting is a **method of saving the energy costs associated with lighting**. It makes **use of the available sunlight**.
- The solar energy spectrum has **45% energy as visible light** and this can be used **to harvest building illumination for about 9-11 hours a day**.
- It is one of the most advanced techniques used in sustainable lighting designs for contemporary buildings.
- It **automatically dims or adjusts the brightness of light** in response to the amount of natural light available in a space. .
- Utilising natural daylight coming through the windows or skylights **minimises the amount of energy used in artificial lighting**.
- The daylight harvesting system employs light sensors, also known as photocell sensors, to detect the prevailing light level in the environment.

- It then sends the intensity of light received to a controller, which is connected to the lighting control system. The control system in turn adjusts the electric lights automatically according to the measured light level.

Significance of Daylight Harvesting

Energy Savings

- It **increases energy savings by dimming or turning off lights based on the natural daylight entering the space.**

Provides Comfort and Convenience

- It **helps to maintain proper light intensity in a space** by continuously and automatically adjusting lights.

Healthier Working Conditions

- Providing **right amounts of light to people helps in maintaining proper circadian rhythms that are crucial to good health** and adequate sleep besides preventing seasonal affective disorders.
- Circadian rhythm is the 24-hour cycle that tells our bodies when to sleep, rise, and eat—regulating many physiological processes.

- Letting in natural light to workplaces provides better concentration, creates a positive mood, and drives healthier employee life.

Reduce Carbon Emission

- Daylight is **available universally and it is a very clean and cost-efficient source** of energy.
- Meeting our energy requirement during the day by using daylight harvesting technology will contribute immensely to meet one of the commitments of the five nectars of “PANCHAMRIT” i.e., to make **India a Net Zero emission country by 2070.**

News: India abstains again in UN vote

- India on Friday abstained on a vote at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva as the Council decided to set up an international commission of enquiry into Russia's actions in Ukraine.
- The resolution, the strongest one to be adopted by the UN system yet, "strongly condemned" aggression by Russia, and said it was "gravely concerned" about reports of rights violations by Russian forces, civilian casualties and the forced displacement of 6,60,000 refugees due to Russian "bombing and shelling".

UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

- United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is a United Nations body whose mission is to **promote and protect human rights around the world.**
- UNHRC has **47 members elected for a staggered 3 year term** on a regional group basis.
- HQ of UNHRC is in **Geneva, Switzerland.**
- The UNHRC **investigates allegations of breaches of human rights in United Nations member states, and addresses important thematic human rights issues** such as freedom of association and assembly, freedom of expression, freedom of belief and religion, women's rights, LGBT rights, and the rights of racial and ethnic minorities.

- The UNHRC was established by the **UN General Assembly on 15 March 2006** to replace the **UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR, herein CHR)** that had been strongly criticised for allowing countries with poor human rights records to be members.