

**08 to 10 – 06 – 2022**

**News:** Maharashtra Re-emerges as Top Sugar Producer

- Maharashtra has once again the top sugar producer state in India after five years. It has overtaken Uttar Pradesh in sugar production.
- The overall production of sugar by Maharashtra accounts for 138 lakh tonnes for the year 2021-22.
- The total sugar produced by the Uttar Pradesh in the year 2021-22 accounts for 105 lakh tonnes.

## **Reasons for the Huge Production of Sugar in Maharashtra**

**Abundant Supply of Water**

- Sugarcane is a water intensive crop which needs a huge water supply which farmers from Maharashtra were getting properly through rainfall, water reservoirs, and network of canals and from groundwater.
- Maharashtra has been receiving more than sufficient rainwater since 2019 during the south-west monsoon season.

- Groundwater aquifers and other reservoirs were filled by water due to sufficient rainfall. These sources of water play a key role in agricultural production.

### **Underreporting of Cane Production**

- Data regarding actual production of the sugarcane in the state of Maharashtra was not quite accurate.
- Keeping this in mind the concerned administration tried to make corrections in the recorded data of the sugarcane production.
- This ultimately resulted in increased acreage under the sugarcane production from 11.42 lakh hectare to 12.4 lakh hectares.
- Thus, Maharashtra harnessed the benefits from increased acreage under sugarcane in 2021-22.

## **Reasons for decline in production of sugarcane in**

### **Uttar Pradesh**

- Uttar Pradesh has become the largest ethanol producer because a large amount of sugarcane production in Uttar Pradesh diverted toward the production of ethanol.

- It has been estimated that 12.60 lakh tonnes equivalent of sugar from cane have been diverted for making ethanol in the year 2021-22 compared to 7.19 lakh tonnes in 2020-21 and 4.81 lakh tonnes in 2019-20 and 0.31 lakh tonnes in 2018-19.
- Uttar Pradesh also has achieved the highest blending of ethanol in petrol ratio among all states.
- Excess rains with water logging problems are associated with the state of Uttar Pradesh which incurred heavy loss of sugarcane crops.
- Majority of the land in sugarcane area in Uttar Pradesh (87%) is planted under a single variety of sugarcane (Co-0238). This variety is not a high yield variety of the sugarcane.
- Adverse impact of red rot fungal disease on sugarcane crop is a severe cause for the decline of sugarcane production in Uttar Pradesh.
- Co-0238 variety of the sugarcane is highly susceptible to the red rot fungal diseases.
- It should be replaced by the new varieties, such as Co-0118 and Co-15023 because both of them are resistant to red rot fungal disease.

# Sugarcane

- Sugarcane is a **low-land tropical, plantation, and cash crop** which are grown in the regions having **high temperature and heavy rainfall**.
- This crop is usually grown in **regions have monsoonal type of climate**. Some major producers include India, Java, Formosa, Cuba, Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados.
- **India is the top country with sugar cane production** in the world beating Brazil for the first time in 16 years in 2018. However, **Brazil is the largest exporter** of Sugar in the world.
- India accounts for about **19 percent of the world's production of sugarcane**. But it occupies only 2.4 percent of total cropped area in the country.
- This industry provides employment for more than 4 lakh persons directly and a large number of farmers indirectly.
- The **sugar industry is a seasonal industry** because of the seasonality of raw materials.
- The development of the industry on modern lines dates back to 1903 when a sugar mill was started in Bihar. Subsequently, sugar mills were started in other parts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

- In 1950-51, 139 factories were in operation. The number of sugar factories rose to 662 in 2010-11.
- Sugarcane is a **weight-losing crop**. The ratio of sugar to sugarcane varies between 9 to 12 percent depending on its variety.
- Its **sucrose content begins to dry during haulage** after it has been harvested from the field.
- **Better recovery of sugar is dependent upon its being crushed within 24 hours of its harvesting.**
- **Sugar factories hence are located within the cane producing regions.**
- **Maharashtra has emerged as a leading sugar producer** in the country and produces more than one-third of the total production of the sugar in the country
- **Uttar Pradesh is the second-largest producer** of sugar. The sugar factories are concentrated in two belts – the Ganga-Yamuna doab and the Tarai region.
- The major sugar-producing centers in the Ganga -Yamuna doab are Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Baghpat, and Bulandshahr districts; while Kheri Lakhimpur, Basti, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Bahraich are important sugar-producing districts in the Tarai region.
- The **crop yield is low in Northern India than in Southern India**. Uttar Pradesh's yield is low, but in Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu the yield is high.

- Area under sugarcane is expected to be almost 54.55 lakh hectare in 2021-2022 sugar season (October to September) or 3% higher than the current season's area, according to the Indian Sugar Mills' Association (ISMA).

**News:** Environment Performance Index-2022

## **Environment Performance Index-2022**

- The Environment Performance Index (EPI) is an **international ranking system that measures environmental health and sustainability of countries.**
- The EPI, a **biennial index, was started in 2002 as Environmental Sustainability Index by the World Economic Forum** in collaboration with the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Columbia University Center for International Earth Science Information Network.

### **Framework**

- The 2022 EPI leverages **40 performance indicators grouped into 11 issue categories.**
- These issue categories are in turn aggregated into 3 policy objectives: **Environmental Health, Ecosystem Vitality and Climate Change.**

- These indicators provide a gauge at a national scale of how close countries are establishing environmental policy targets.
- The EPI team transforms the raw environmental data into indicators that place countries on a 0–100 scale from worst to best performance.

### Key Highlights of the Index

- Denmark tops the 2022 rankings — an achievement rooted in strong performance across nearly all issues tracked by the EPI, with notable leadership in efforts to promote a clean energy future and sustainable agriculture.
- The United Kingdom and Finland place 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, both earning high scores for slashing greenhouse gas emissions in recent years.
- The United States places 20<sup>th</sup> out of 22 wealthy democracies in the Global West and 43<sup>rd</sup> overall.
- With a paltry score of 18.9, India's 180<sup>th</sup> ranking comes after Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Myanmar.
- India has also scored low on rule of law, control of corruption and government effectiveness, according to EPI.
- India was ranked 168<sup>th</sup> in EPI-2020, with a score of 27.6.
- In EPI-2020, Denmark has been ranked first in environmental health and sustainability.

## Significance of EPI

- EPI enables decision-makers to recognize the drivers of top-tier performance.
- Analysis of the EPI data demonstrates that financial resources, good governance, human development, and regulatory quality matter for elevating a country's sustainability.
- Highlighting these connections, the EPI helps to promote sustainable development in support of a more environmentally secure and equitable future.