

25 May 2021: PIB Summary & Analysis

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1. Vesak or Buddha Purnima

Context:

PM to deliver the keynote address on the occasion of **Virtual Vesak Global Celebrations** on Buddha Purnima.

Details:

- The GOI's Culture Ministry is organising the event in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).
- Over 50 prominent Buddhist religious leaders and the supreme heads of Buddhist Sanghas from all over the world will participate in the virtual event.
- This day marks the birth anniversary of Lord Buddha and is also known as Buddha Jayanti or Buddha Day.
- Vesak is from the Pali Vesākha or Sanskrit Vaiśākha.
- The day falls on the full moon day in the month of Vaiśākha, which falls in April-May.

Also read: [Buddhism – Comprehensive Article](#).

2. National Mission on use of Biomass in Thermal Power Plants

Context:

Ministry of Power decided to set up a National Mission on use of Biomass in coal based thermal power plants.

Details:

- The Ministry of Power took this decision to address the issue of air pollution due to farm [stubble burning](#) and to reduce carbon footprints of thermal power generation.
- **Objectives of the Mission:**
 - To increase the level of co-firing from present 5% to higher levels to have a larger share of carbon neutral power generation from the thermal power plants.

- To take up R&D activity in boiler design to handle the higher amount of silica, alkalis in the biomass pellets.
- To facilitate overcoming the constraints in supply chain of bio mass pellets and agro-residue and its transport up to the power plants.
- To consider regulatory issues in biomass co-firing.
- The mission will have a Steering Committee headed by Secretary (Power) comprising of all stakeholders including representatives from Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG), Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), etc.

What is biomass co-firing?

- Cofiring is a low-cost option for efficiently and cleanly converting biomass to electricity by adding biomass as a partial substitute fuel in high-efficiency coal boilers.
- Biomass cofiring has the potential to cut emissions from coal-fueled generation without substantially increasing costs or infrastructure investments.

3. International Day of Biological Diversity

Context:

International Day of Biological Diversity is observed on 22 May annually.

Details:

- The theme of the 2021 International Day for Biological Diversity is “We’re part of the solution”.
- It is a UN-sanctioned international day for the promotion of biodiversity issues.

Also read: [Biodiversity Conservation during a Global Crisis: RSTV- Big Picture](#)

4. Khelo India Centres

Context:

Sports Ministry gives go-ahead to open up 143 Khelo India Centres across 7 States in India.

Details:

- Each of these Centres will be entrusted with one sports discipline each.
- The States include Maharashtra, Mizoram, Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.
- The total outlay for the program is Rs 14.30 Crores.
- The Khelo India Centres have been launched by the Sports Ministry in partnership with the State Governments to ensure the availability of grassroot-level sports infrastructure across the country.

- Previously, 217 KICs had been opened up.

Also read: [Khelo India Programme](#)

