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DAILY NEWS **ANALYSIS**

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FOREWORD

We, at Team Vedhik is happy to introduce a new initiative - "Daily Current Affairs_The Hindu" compilations to help you with UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation. We believe this initiative - "Daily Current Affairs_The Hindu" would help students, especially beginners save time and streamline their preparations with regard to Current Affairs. A content page and an Appendix has been added segregating and mapping the content to the syllabus.

It is an appreciable efforts by Vedhik IAS Academy helping aspirants of UPSC Civil Services Examinations. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Babu Sebastian, former VC - MG University in extending all support to this endeavour. Finally I also extend my thanks to thank Ms. Shilpa Sasidharan and Mr. Shahul Hameed for their assistance in the preparing the compilations.

We welcome your valuable comments so that further improvement may be made in the forthcoming material. We look forward to feedback, comments and suggestions on how to improve and add value for students. Every care has been taken to avoid typing errors and if any reader comes across any such error, the authors shall feel obliged if they are informed at their Email ID.

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UN resolution focuses only on one religion: India

‘Time to acknowledge other phobias’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
UNITED NATIONS

As the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on Tuesday to proclaim March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, India expressed concern over phobia against “one religion being elevated to the level of an international day”.

India’s Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti said in the General Assembly that India hoped the resolution adopted “does not set a precedent”, which will lead to multiple resolutions based on selective religions and divide the United Nations into religious camps.

Global diversity

“Hinduism has more than 1.2 billion followers, Buddhism more than 535 million and Sikhism more than 30 million spread out around the world. It is time that we acknowledged the prevalence of religiophobia, rather than single out just one,” he said.



T.S. Tirumurti

The 193-member General Assembly adopted a resolution, introduced by Pakistan’s Ambassador Munir Akram under agenda item Culture of peace, to proclaim March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.

Following the adoption of the draft resolution, Mr. Tirumurti said while India condemns all acts motivated by anti-semitism, Christianophobia or Islamophobia, such phobias were not restricted to Abrahamic religions only.

He pointed to the emergence of anti-Hindu, anti-Buddhist and anti-Sikh phobias.

China's lockdowns spur supply chain concerns

Millions under lockdown amid worst COVID-19 surge in China since early days of pandemic

ANANTH KRISHNAN
HONG KONG

Several companies in China's manufacturing centres in both the south and north-east have halted operations amid the most sweeping COVID-19 lockdowns in the country since the start of the pandemic in Wuhan.

China, on Tuesday, reported more than 5,000 COVID-19 cases, the highest since early 2020, and the country this week locked down the entire province of Jilin in the northeast - the first such lockdown of an entire province since Hubei, where Wuhan is located, was closed off from the rest of the country in 2020.

Jilin is a manufacturing hub particularly for automobile companies, and carmakers Toyota and Volkswagen



Tied down: China's tech hub Shenzhen, home to 17.5 million people, has been locked down due to rising infections. ■ AP

said they had suspended production in the capital, Changchun.

The current surge fuelled by the Omicron variant has spread across many cities in China and 19 out of 31 provinces have reported cases. In southern Guangdong,

tech hub Shenzhen and manufacturing centre Dongguan, have both been put under lockdown.

Apple supplier Foxconn said it had suspended operations at its Shenzhen facility. Langfang, in northern Hebei province, which houses a fa-

cility of Foxconn's Hon Hai Precision Industry, has also announced a lockdown. The Taiwanese electronics manufacturer said it was looking to divert production to other facilities on the mainland, but with the spread of the current surge, those options are likely to narrow.

China largely managed to keep supply chains functioning normally through much of 2020 and also throughout 2021, when a "zero COVID" strategy, that relied on international travel curbs as well as testing and tracing to quickly quash outbreaks, helped the economy record a robust export performance while much of the world remained caught in cycles of lockdowns. China avoided a major second wave unlike most of the other countries.

How the current surge impacts China's supply chains will add to the concerns of its major trading partners, including India, which are already preparing to deal with the spillover impacts of Russia's war in Ukraine.

A particular concern is the impact on China's major ports. Shanghai, the world's largest, has imposed lockdowns in several neighbourhoods but the port was maintaining normal operations as of Tuesday.

If lockdown restrictions spread, affecting access to the ports as well as workers, as happened in 2020 when COVID-19 measures led to record queues for container ships, analysts fear freight may see a disruption, leading to both bottlenecks and higher freight costs.

‘High crude oil prices are unsustainable’

India is well braced to cope with surge in import costs; WPI inflation to ease soon: Finance Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Tuesday termed the current price levels of crude oil and commodities as ‘unsustainable’ and said while prices were expected to ease soon, India’s record forex reserves had, however, placed it in a good position to cope with escalation in import costs.

The impact of recent developments, including the Russia-Ukraine crisis, on India’s growth, inflation, current account and fiscal deficits would depend on how long commodity prices persisted at elevated levels, the ministry noted. India’s robust growth estimates for 2022-23, from agencies such as Fitch Ratings (10.3%) and Moody’s (8.4%), would face a



Eyes on oil: Crude price movements are likely to dominate the inflation trend in the coming months, says FinMin. ■ REUTERS

‘downside risk’ if the high crude oil prices sustained ‘well into the new financial year’, it concluded.

“Given the inherently unsustainable nature of high prices, international commodity prices are expected

to level off early with increase in supplies outside the crisis zone,” the ministry projected in its review of the economy for February.

The tensions between Russia and Ukraine, had triggered a ‘massive turbulence

in the global economy’ with prices of crude oil and other commodities shooting up and ‘escalating the cost of India’s import basket’. However, its impact on India’s activity level could only be assessed a month later, it said, noting that forex reserves were adequate to cover over 12 months of imports.

‘Provides a floor’

Conceding that geopolitical developments had introduced an element of uncertainty into the outlook, the Ministry asserted, “However, the Budget with its capex orientation and prudent assumptions along with strong macroeconomic fundamentals will support growth and provides a floor to it amidst global political turmoil and

likely higher volatility in financial markets”.

Crude prices were expected to dominate the inflation trend in coming months, and the government was taking steps to mitigate adverse effects from this ‘imported inflation’ such as diversifying import and energy sources beyond traditional hydrocarbons to ‘emerging fuels’ like ethanol and compressed biogas, the ministry said.

And though retail inflation had crossed 6% in the last two months, it observed that the average for 2021-22 was still 5.4%, which was lower than 6.2% in 2020-21.

Wholesale inflation had averaged 12.7% between April and February due to the low base and would moderate as the effect faded.

Wearing hijab is not essential part of religion: Karnataka HC

'Ban in schools constitutionally permissible'

KRISHNAPRASAD
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday upheld the ban on the wearing of hijab (head scarf) by students in schools and colleges in the State. It held that wearing the hijab is not an essential religious practice in Islam and is not, therefore, protected under by the right to freedom of religion guaranteed by Article 25 of the Constitution. The court said it was a reasonable restriction that was constitutionally permissible.

The judgment was delivered by a three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Justice Krishna S. Dixit and Justice J.M. Khazi, while rejecting all the petitions filed by nine Muslim girl students of two government pre-university colleges in Udupi district.

Govt. order

The Bench also upheld the legality of the Karnataka government's February 5, 2022, order prescribing guidelines for uniforms in schools and pre-university colleges under the provisions of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983, after a row over hijab in Udupi and other districts.

The dress row | A brief timeline of events around the hijab controversy in Karnataka

December 2021: Muslim students of Government PU College for Girls, Udupi seek nod to wear hijab in classes

January 2022: Hijab row spreads to other districts of Karnataka

February 5, 2022: Karnataka government issues guidelines on uniforms



Tightened vigil: Police outside the Karnataka HC after the hijab ban was upheld. ■ PTI

February 9: Four girls file petitions challenging the guidelines; Chief Justice sets up a three-judge Bench

February 10: The Bench restrains all the students from wearing hijabs, saffron shawls, and religious flags in classrooms until further orders

March 15: HC upholds legality of the State's guidelines

There is sufficient intrinsic material within the scripture itself to support the view that wearing hijab been only recommendatory, if at all it is

— KARNATAKA HIGH COURT

In its 129-page judgement, Bench also spoke about the possibility of some “unseen hands” behind the hijab row to engineer social unrest and disharmony, and expressed dismay over the issue being blown out of proportion by the powers that be.

The court said that school uniform will cease to be a uniform if hijab is also allowed.

“Hijab is a veil ordinarily worn by Muslim women. Its origin in the Arabic verb *hajaba* has etymological similarities with the verb ‘to hide.’... This way, the hijab hides, marks the difference, protects, and arguably affirms the religious identity of Muslim women,” the Bench said.

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HC: wearing hijab is not essential part of religion

The Bench said, “The era before the introduction of Islam is known as Jahiliya – a time of barbarism and ignorance. The *Quran* shows concern for the cases of ‘molestation of innocent women’ and therefore, it recommended wearing of this and other apparel as a measure of social security.”

“May be in the course of time, some elements of religion permeated into this practice, as ordinarily happens in any religion. However, that *per se* does not render the practice predominantly religious and much less essential to the Islamic faith,” the Bench said. The Bench, for its analysis of the *Quran*, relied on the book, *The Holy Quran: Text, Translation and Commentary* by Abdullah Yusuf Ali.

Quoting Ali’s commentaries on *sūra* (xxxiii), verse 59, at footnote 3765 and the footnote 3760 to verse 53 in his book, the Bench observed, “The holy *Quran* does not mandate wearing of hijab for Muslim women.”

“Whatever is stated in the above *sūras*, we say, is only directory, because of absence of prescription of penalty or penance for not wearing hijab. The linguistic structure of verses supports this view. This apparel at the most is a means to gain access to public places and not a religious end in itself. It was a measure of women enablement and not a figurative constraint.”

“...Prophet had appreciably said at *sūra* (ii) verse 256 in holy *Quran*: ‘Let there be no compulsion in religion...’ What Mr. Abdullah Yusuf Ali in footnote 300 to this verse,

appreciably reasons out, is again worth quoting: ‘Compulsion is incompatible with religion because religion depends upon faith and will, and these would be meaningless if induced by force...,’ the Bench pointed out.

“...There is sufficient intrinsic material within the scripture itself to support the view that wearing hijab has been only recommendatory, if at all it is,” the Bench noted from Ali’s commentary. Quoting the article, “Veiled women: Hijab, Religion, and Cultural Practice-2013” of Sara Slininger from Centralia, Illinois, the Bench noted that “wearing hijab is not religion-specific” and the practice “started long before Islamic prophet Muhammad was born.”

Quoting a line from verse 60 from Ali’s book, the Bench said, “Thus, it can be reasonably assumed that the practice of wearing hijab had a thick nexus to the socio-cultural conditions then prevalent in the region.”

“The veil was a safe means for the women to leave the confines of their homes. Ali’s short but leading question is premised on this analysis. What is not religiously made obligatory therefore cannot be made a quintessential aspect of the religion through public agitations or by passionate arguments in courts,” the Bench observed.

“It is not that if the alleged practice of wearing hijab is not adhered to those not wearing hijab become sinners, Islam loses its glory and it ceases to be a religion,” the Bench said.

SC averse to 'sealed cover jurisprudence'

The court was critical about how agencies file reports without sharing the contents with opposite party

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Two separate Benches of the Supreme Court on Tuesday tore into the "sealed cover jurisprudence" practised by the government in courts.

The court was critical about how the government and its agencies file reports in sealed envelopes directly in court without sharing the contents with the opposite party. This is usually done on the ground that the contents are highly sensitive in nature, and may injure even national security or "public order". Another reason given by state agencies, mostly in money laundering cases, is that the disclosure would affect ongoing investigation.

Being kept in the dark about the material contained in a sealed cover report, the petitioners are crippled in mounting a defence, not knowing what they are sup-

posed to defend against. At times, their cases, mostly involving fundamental rights such as personal liberty, are dismissed on the basis of the secret contents ensconced in the sealed covers.

"Please do not give sealed cover reports in this court. We will not accept it," Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana admonished a counsel in a criminal appeal filed by a man against the Bihar government.

The CJI's remarks were recounted by senior advocate Dushyant Dave to a Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud later in the day as soon as the hearing began on the government ban of Media One channel.

"I am very averse to what is called the 'sealed cover jurisprudence'," Justice Chandrachud reacted.

The Centre, in the Media One case, had come with its



files to hand over to the court in a sealed cover. The court asked why the government could not disclose the files to the channel. It kept the issue open for examination.

Justice Chandrachud said the court would like to examine the larger issue of 'sealed cover jurisprudence', especially in the background of bans on media houses such as Media One, and asked senior lawyers like Rakesh Dwivedi

and Additional-Solicitor Generals S.V. Raju and K.M. Natraj to assist it in the endeavour.

'Small exception'

Justice Chandrachud said there were only a "small exception" of cases in which the court, for the benefit of the parties, do not want them to see the government files.

"Like in a case of child sexual abuse," Justice Chandrachud pointed out. He narrated how, some time ago, Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal dealt with sensitive government records concerning cross-border national security in a case before the Supreme Court.

Instead of putting them in a sealed cover, Mr. Venugopal had sent his junior with the records to the office of the opposite counsel, for him to go through them so

that the latter could better assist the court. "The Attorney made it clear that he did not like the files to be made available in the public realm, but he said there is nothing secret from the petitioner's counsel, who could see the records for himself and assist the court," Justice Chandrachud narrated.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi referred to the top court's judgment in the *Anuradha Bhasin* case that dealt with security measures in Jammu and Kashmir following the revocation of its special status under Article 370.

"The court said that any portion perceived sensitive could be redacted but the substance of what is against you, be it a question of national security or not, should be disclosed to the opposite party so that they can get an opportunity to defend," Mr. Ahmadi submitted.

SC stays telecast ban on MediaOne channel

The Bench said the issue whether the internal files of the government ought to be shared with the company to pursue its challenge against the ban would be “expressly kept open to be resolved”. The top court referred to a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court which, while confirming an earlier Single Judge order upholding the government ban, had noted that the government files did not dwell on the “impact, gravity and depth” of revoking the licence. The High Court had said the files did not contain “too many details”.

“What you have merely said in the High Court is that the Ministry of Home Affairs has denied security clearance based on intelligence inputs which are sensitive and secretive in nature... Now their business is shut down. Surely, they are entitled to the particulars. Otherwise, how do they defend themselves? Disclose your files to them... What is the difficulty in disclosing files? It is after all a licence to run a TV channel... Disclose the files,” Justice Chandrachud addressed Additional Solicitor Generals S.V. Raju and K.M. Nataraj, for the govern-

ment.

‘Heavens won’t fall’

Mr. Dave said “heavens are not going to fall” if the channel was allowed to broadcast news and current affairs. “I am not going to bring the government down... How can a democratically elected government stand before a court and plead ‘national security’? Over 385 journalists are without a job. I have to pay monthly wages to the tune of ₹83 lakh and there are millions of my viewers...” he submitted.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, who was not appearing in the case but was watching the proceedings, intervened to say he was representing a media house in “identical case” regarding the non-renewal of licence of the government. “These matters have to be taken up urgently by this court,” he said. “The Cable TV and Network Act does not give the government the power to deny me security clearance... For six weeks, I have been shut down without a reason simply because we are run by members of a minority community... What else is it?” Mr. Dave said.

Govt. approves PLI plan for 75 auto parts firms

Maruti, Hero, Bosch, Toyota in the list

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday said it had approved applications by 75 firms, such as Maruti Suzuki, Hero Moto-Corp, Bosch, Hero Cycles, Minda Corporation and Toyota Kirloskar Auto Parts, under the 'Component Champion Incentive Scheme', under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the auto sector.

The PLI Scheme for the automobile and auto components industry, with a budgetary outlay of ₹25,938 crore, has two components – the Champion OEM incentive scheme and the Component Champion incentive scheme. The government had last month approved



applications by 20 companies, including Hyundai Motor India, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors and Kia India, for the Champion OEM incentive scheme.

Proposals for ₹45,016 crore were from approved applicants under the OEM scheme and ₹29,834 crore from those under the components scheme.

Growing price pressures

Policymakers need to tame inflation or risk it undermining the growth they seek to support

Inflation in India continues on a worrying uptrend with the consumer price index-based reading accelerating to an eight-month high of 6.07% last month, while wholesale prices logged a double-digit increase for the eleventh straight month. February's headline WPI inflation spurted to 13.11%. Retail inflation remained stuck above the RBI's upper tolerance threshold of 6% for the second month, as food price inflation quickened to 5.85%. Households in the hinterland bore a bigger brunt of the burden as price gains measured by the consumer food price index for rural areas surged by 69 basis points from January's level, to 5.87%. Price gains in the key protein source of meat and fish jumped by almost 200 basis points from the preceding month to 7.45%, while nutrient-rich vegetables also logged inflation of 6.13% in February, belying the central bank's prognostication last month of an "expected easing of vegetable prices on fresh winter crop arrivals". And even though inflation in oils and fats eased by more than 220 basis points to 16.44%, there is little room for cheer, given that one can expect a spike again this month in the wake of the abrupt disruption in the supply of edible oils from war-torn Ukraine, which is the largest source of sunflower oil imported into India. With price gains in clothing and footwear, fuel and light and transport and communication all running well above 8% levels, the overall trend in retail inflation is now clearly broad-based across consumption categories and disconcertingly way above tolerance levels.

Also, with the pump prices of fuels yet to reflect the recent upsurge in international oil prices in the wake of Russia's invasion of its southwestern neighbour, transport and communication inflation is certain to climb sharply once state-run refiners reset prices to reflect crude costs. The price of India's crude basket had already risen by over \$20 a barrel since December to \$94.07 last month and with global crude prices currently in uncharted territory on account of the war, and the rupee having weakened by about 2.5% against the dollar since the start of the conflict, it is hard to see any near-term relief on the fuel price front. A glance at last month's producer prices of the energy basket shows inflation in the fuel and power category of the wholesale price index was at 31.5%. And in a sign that manufacturers are no longer able to keep absorbing cost pressures, inflation in manufactured products accelerated to 9.84% presaging more pain for consumers. RBI Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra had last week cited the headroom available for the Government to cut taxes on fuels as a source of comfort on the inflation front. With the RBI's latest consumer confidence survey showing most households reporting further increases in overall spending on essentials and remaining far from sanguine on the prices outlook, policymakers need to act expeditiously to tame inflation or risk it undermining the very growth they are currently focused on supporting.

‘Yet to release ₹53,600 cr. to States on GST’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

More than ₹53,600 crore of Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation for the current fiscal is yet to be released to the States, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

So far this fiscal, ₹96,576 crore has been released to the States on account of GST compensation, and an additional ₹1.59 lakh crore has been given as back-to-back loan to make good the revenue shortfall on account of GST implementation. Under GST law, States were guaranteed to be compensated bi-monthly for loss of revenue in the first five years of GST from July 1, 2017.

EXPLAINER

India's solar capacity: Milestones and challenges

How far has India progressed on its goal to achieve 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030? What are some of the obstacles that the domestic solar industry faces?

THE GIST

■ As on 28 February 2022, India has surpassed 50 GW of cumulative installed solar capacity. This ranks the country fifth in solar power deployment.

■ There is limited financing for residential consumers and Small and Medium Enterprises who want to install roof top solar systems. India's focus on large-scale solar PV fails to exploit the many benefits of decentralised renewable energy options.

■ India's domestic manufacturing capacities in the solar sector do not match up to the demand for solar power. In 2021-22, India imported nearly \$76.62 billion worth solar cells and modules from China alone.

NIHARIKA TAGOTRA
BHARATH JAIRAJ

The story so far: India added a record 10 Gigawatt (GW) of solar energy to its cumulative installed capacity in 2021. This has been the highest 12-month capacity addition, recording nearly a 200% year-on-year growth. India has now surpassed 50 GW of cumulative installed solar capacity, as on 28 February 2022. This is a milestone in India's journey towards generating 500 GW from renewable energy by 2030, of which 300 GW is expected to come from solar power. India's capacity additions rank the country fifth in solar power deployment, contributing nearly 6.5% to the global cumulative capacity of 709.68 GW.

Increased awareness, and affordable finance for roof top solar projects could potentially ensure the spread of RTS across the scores of SMEs and homes around the country.

Even as India continues down this impressive journey, there are some areas of concern to highlight. First, of the 50 GW installed solar capacity, an overwhelming 42 GW comes from ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, and only 6.48 GW comes from roof top solar (RTS); and 1.48 GW from off-grid solar PV.

Why is India falling short in roof-top solar installations?

The steep rise in large, ground-mounted solar energy is indicative of the strong push towards increasing the share of utility-scale solar projects across the country. RTS deployment stands at 6.48 GW in 2021, far short on the Union Government's target of 40 GW of RTS by end 2022.

The large-scale solar PV focus fails to exploit the many benefits of decentralised renewable energy (DRE) options, including reduction in transmission and distribution (T&D) losses. One of the primary benefits of

solar PV technology is that it can be installed at the point of consumption, significantly reducing the need for large capital-intensive transmission infrastructure. This is not an either/or situation; India needs to deploy both large and smaller-scale solar PV, and particularly needs to expand RTS efforts.

However, there is limited financing for residential consumers and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) who want to install RTS. Coupled with lukewarm responses from electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs) to supporting net metering, RTS continues to see low uptake across the country. Governments, utilities, and banks will need to explore innovative financial mechanisms that bring down the cost of loans and reduce the risk of investment for lenders. Increased awareness, and affordable finance for RTS projects could potentially ensure the spread of RTS across the scores of SMEs and homes around the country. Aggregating roof spaces could also help reduce overall costs of RTS installations and enable developing economies of scale.

What are the challenges to India's solar power capacity addition?

Despite significant growth in the installed solar capacity, the contribution of solar energy to the country's power generation has not grown at the same pace. In 2019-20, for instance, solar power contributed only 3.6% (50 billion units) of India's total power generation of 1390 BU.

The utility-scale solar PV sector continues to face challenges like land costs, high T&D losses and other inefficiencies, and grid integration challenges. There have also been conflicts with local communities and biodiversity protection norms. Also, while India has achieved record low tariffs for solar power generation in the utility-scale segment, this has not translated into cheaper power for end-consumers.

What's the state of India's domestic solar module manufacturing capacity? Domestic manufacturing capacities in the

solar sector do not match up to the present potential demand for solar power in the country. Crisil's report on the subject highlights that as on March 31, 2021, India had 3 GW capacity for solar cell production and 8 GW for solar panel production capacity. Moreover, backward integration in the solar value chain is absent as India has no capacity for manufacturing solar wafers and polysilicon. In 2021-22, India imported nearly \$76.62 billion worth solar cells and modules from China alone, accounting for 78.6% of India's total imports that year. Low manufacturing capacities, coupled with cheaper imports from China have rendered Indian products uncompetitive in the domestic market.

This situation can, however, be corrected if India embraces a circular economy model for solar systems. This would allow solar PV waste to be recycled and reused in the solar PV supply chain. By the end of 2030, India will likely produce nearly 34,600 metric tonnes of solar PV waste. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) estimates that the global value of recoverable materials from solar PV waste could exceed \$15 billion.

Currently, only the European Union has taken decisive steps in managing solar PV waste. India could look at developing appropriate guidelines around Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which means holding manufacturers accountable for the entire life cycle of solar PV products and creating standards for waste recycling. This could give domestic manufacturers a competitive edge and go a long way in addressing waste management and supply side constraints.

What are the key takeaways from India's solar story?

India has grown from strength to strength in overcoming barriers to achieve the 50 GW milestone in Feb 2022. The destination is clear, and the journey is progressing. As India attempts to deal with some of the shortcomings identified above, India's solar story will continue to provide important



Sunshine state: Visitors of the Andhra Pradesh Assembly take shelter under a 'solar tree' set up for solar power generation in Velagapudi of Guntur district. FILE PHOTO

lessons for other developing countries that are looking to transition to clean energy.

In addition to an impressive domestic track record, through the International Solar Alliance (ISA) established by India and France at COP-21 in 2015, there is a global platform to bring countries together to facilitate collaboration on issues such as mobilising investments, capacity building, program support and advocacy and analytics on solar energy. Technology sharing and finance could also become important aspects of ISA in the future, allowing a meaningful cooperation between countries in the solar energy sector.

Dr. Niharika Tagotra is Senior Research Specialist (Energy) at WRI India and Bharath Jairaj is Director of the WRI India Energy Program.

General Studies Paper I	
A	History of Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of art forms, literature and architecture from ancient to modern times;
B	Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present-significant events, personalities, issues;
C	Freedom struggle-its various stages and important contributors / contributions from different parts of the country;
D	Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country;
E	History of the world will include events from 18 th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, re-drawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization,
F	Political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.-their forms and effect on the society
G	Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India;
H	Effects of globalization on Indian society;
I	Role of women and women's organization;
J	Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism
K	Salient features of world's physical geography;
L	Geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes;
M	Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.
N	Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent);
O	Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India);
P	Population and associated issues;
Q	Urbanization, their problems and their remedies
General Studies Paper II	
A	India and its neighbourhood- relations;
B	Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate;
C	Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests;
D	Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
E	Indian Constitution, historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure;
F	Comparison of the Indian Constitutional scheme with other countries;
G	Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein; Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
H	Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these;
I	Structure, organization and functioning of the executive and the judiciary, Ministries and Departments;

J	Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions;
K	Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional bodies;
L	Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies;
M	Mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections;
N	Salient features of the Representation of People's Act;
O	Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential;
P	Citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures;
Q	Issues relating to poverty and hunger,
R	Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States, Performance of these schemes;
S	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to education and human resources;
T	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to health
General Studies Paper III	
A	Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment;
B	Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth;
C	Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
D	Infrastructure Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc. Government budgeting;
E	Land reforms in India
F	Major crops, cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems;
G	Storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints;
H	e-technology in the aid of farmers; Technology Missions; Economics of Animal-Rearing.
I	Issues of buffer stocks and food security, Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping;
J	Food processing and related industries in India – scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management;
K	Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices
L	Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology;
M	Indigenization of technology and developing new technology;
N	Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life;
O	Issues relating to intellectual property rights
P	Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment
Q	Disaster and disaster management
R	Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security;
S	Money-laundering and its prevention;

T	Various forces and their mandate;
U	Security challenges and their management in border areas;
V	Linkages of organized crime with terrorism;
W	Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security;
X	Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
General Studies Paper IV	
A	Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions;
B	Dimensions of ethics;
C	Ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators;
D	Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
E	Attitude: Content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour;
F	Moral and political attitudes;
G	Social influence and persuasion.
H	Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service , integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.
I	Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
J	Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
K	Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems;
L	Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions;
M	Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as
N	sources of ethical guidance;
O	Accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding;
P	Corporate governance.
Q	Probity in Governance: Concept of public service;
R	Philosophical basis of governance and probity;
S	Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
T	Case Studies on above issues.