

Global solar power tracker



Solar PV generation increased by a record 179 TWh (up 22%) in 2021 to exceed 1 000 TWh. It demonstrated the second largest absolute generation growth of all renewable technologies in 2021, after wind. Solar PV is becoming the lowest-cost option for new electricity generation in most of the world, which is expected to propel investment in the coming years. However, average annual generation growth of 25% in the period 2022-2030 is needed to follow the Net Zero Emissions by 2050 Scenario. This corresponds to a more than threefold increase in annual capacity deployment until 2030, requiring much greater policy ambition and more effort from both public and private stakeholders, especially in the areas of grid integration and the mitigation of policy, regulation and financing challenges. This is particularly the case in emerging and developing countries.

Power generation from solar PV increased by a record 179 TWh in 2021, marking 22% growth on 2020. Solar PV accounted for 3.6% of global electricity generation, and it remains the third largest renewable electricity technology behind hydropower and wind.

China was responsible for about 38% of solar PV generation growth in 2021, with large capacity additions in 2020 and 2021. The second largest generation growth (17% share of the total) was recorded in the United States, and third largest in the European Union (10%). Solar PV proved to be resilient in the face of Covid-19 disruptions, supply chain bottlenecks and commodity price rises experienced in 2021 and achieved another record annual increase in capacity (almost 190 GW). This, in turn, should lead to further acceleration of electricity generation growth in 2022. However, reaching an annual solar PV generation level of approximately 7 400 TWh in 2030, aligning with the Net Zero Scenario, from the current 1 000 TWh requires annual average generation growth of about 25% during 2022-2030.

Although this rate is similar to the average annual expansion recorded in the past five years, it will require increased effort to maintain this momentum as the PV market grows.

In the environment of increasing fuel and electricity prices in 2021, distributed PV became an increasingly attractive alternative for many consumers, which has driven investment. Utility-scale PV remains the most competitive source of PV generation in most parts of the world; however building large-scale installations is becoming increasingly challenging in many parts of the world due to the lack of suitable sites.

Inflation and growth



Inflation represents how much more expensive the relevant set of goods and/or services has become over a certain period, most commonly a year.

Consumers' cost of living depends on the prices of many goods and services and the share of each in the household budget. To measure the average consumer's cost of living, government agencies conduct household surveys to identify a basket of commonly purchased items and track over time the cost of purchasing this basket. The cost of this basket at a given time expressed relative to a base year is the consumer price index (CPI), and the percentage change in the CPI over a certain period is consumer price inflation, the most widely used measure of inflation. (For example, if the base year CPI is 100 and the current CPI is 110, inflation is 10 percent over the period.)

Core consumer inflation focuses on the underlying and persistent trends in inflation by excluding prices set by the government and the more volatile prices of products, such as food and energy, most affected by seasonal factors or temporary supply conditions. Core inflation is also watched closely by policymakers. Calculation of an overall inflation rate—for a

country, say, and not just for consumers—requires an index with broader coverage, such as the GDP deflator.

To the extent that households' nominal income, which they receive in current money, does not increase as much as prices, they are worse off, because they can afford to purchase less. In other words, their purchasing power or real—inflation-adjusted—income falls. Real income is a proxy for the standard of living. When real incomes are rising, so is the standard of living, and vice versa.

Inflation can also distort purchasing power over time for recipients and payers of fixed interest rates. Take pensioners who receive a fixed 5 percent yearly increase to their pension. If inflation is higher than 5 percent, a pensioner's purchasing power falls. On the other hand, a borrower who pays a fixed-rate mortgage of 5 percent would benefit from 5 percent inflation, because the real interest rate (the nominal rate minus the inflation rate) would be zero; servicing this debt would be even easier if inflation were higher, as long as the borrower's income keeps up with inflation. The lender's real income, of course, suffers. To the extent that inflation is not factored into nominal interest rates, some gain and some lose purchasing power.

Although high inflation hurts an economy, deflation, or falling prices, is not desirable either. When prices are falling, consumers delay making purchases if they can, anticipating lower prices in the future. For the economy this means less economic activity, less income generated by producers, and lower economic growth.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021



The Bill amends the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 to increase the minimum age of marriage of females to 21 years. Further, the Bill will override any other law, custom, or practice.

Under the 2006 Act, a person married below the minimum age may apply for annulment within two years of attaining majority (i.e., before 20 years of age). The Bill increases this to five years (i.e., 23 years of age).

Key Issues

The minimum age of marriage at 21 years is higher than the minimum age of majority (18 years). The Supreme Court has ruled that marriage between adults is a fundamental right. The question is whether prohibiting marriage for persons between 18 and 21 years is a reasonable restriction on their right to marry.

About a quarter of 20-24 year old women are married before the age of 18 years, despite that being the minimum age of marriage since 1978. The limited success of the current law raises the question whether an increase in minimum age would have any significant impact on reducing the incidence of child marriage.

According to the National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NFHS-5), 23% of women between the age of 20 and 24 were married before 18 years of age. This figure has reduced significantly over the years from 47% in NFHS-3 (2005-06) to 27% in NFHS-4 (2015-16), and to 23% in the latest survey. In India, the practice of child marriage was first legally prohibited in 1929 through the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929. As per the 1929 Act, marriage of girls below the age of 14 years and boys below the age of 18 years was prohibited. This Act was amended in 1978 to increase the minimum age to 18 years for females, and 21 years for men. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 replaced the 1929 Act, with the same minimum age limits. The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 seeks to increase the minimum age of marriage for females to 21 years. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports on December 21, 2021.

According to the statement of objects and reasons (SOR) of the Bill, increasing the age of marriage will help in achieving various goals including improvement of maternal and infant mortality rates (IMR and MMR), nutrition levels, sex ratio at birth (SRB), female labour force participation, and gender equality, and will lead to empowerment of women.

The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, codifies the law relating to marriage among Hindus. It permits a woman to file a petition for divorce if she was married before the age of 15 years and she repudiated the marriage before she turned 18. The Bill amends the 1955 Act to increase the maximum age till which the wife can repudiate the marriage to 21 years. However, the Bill also amends the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 to allow annulment of marriages till the age of 23 years. Note that annulment implies that a marriage was entirely void, and hence was never valid, which is different from obtaining a divorce by repudiating the marriage

Role of CCI



The Competition Commission of India (CCI), a statutory body set up under the Competition Act, 2002 with the primary purpose of regulating competition in the market, plays a significant role in protecting the interests of consumers.

CCI became functional in 2009, seven years after the Competition Act was passed in 2002 with the aim of promoting healthy competition. The body, which is often called the anti-trust watchdog, is required to protect the Indian markets against activities among players which may have appreciable adverse effects on competition. This essentially means that any agreement among similarly-placed market actors or an agreement among various hierarchical stages of supply chain that may result in an undue adverse impact on the market ought to be prevented, deterred and punished by the body.

The CCI is also empowered to act against any entity that abuses its dominant market position to its undue advantage. Cartelisation or instances of exclusive distribution arrangements can be said to be examples of agreements that are in violation of the competition law. In essence,

any activity among various kinds of market players which may result in price fixing, limiting production or supply, or collusive bidding et al would be said to have an appreciable adverse effect on the market and will form for an actionable ground for CCI's intervention

The Competition Commission may act on a complaint filed by an informant pertaining to an anti-trust activity or may take action suo moto. CCI may ask its Director General to conduct an investigation to probe the alleged activity and hold a hearing on the findings of the probe report thereafter. Being a quasi-judicial statutory body, orders passed by CCI can be challenged before the appellate forum.

The competition law also requires for M&As between entities to obtain regulatory approval from CCI, provided such combinations satisfy the monetary threshold mentioned in the law. The combinations that may lead to merging of entities, or acquisition of control, voting rights, or assets of one entity by another need the consent of CCI. This is required to ensure that such a combination does not result in adversely affecting competition in the market. As such, a deal of this nature would have to be notified before CCI in accordance with the requirements and thresholds laid down in the law.

The commission has the right to modify the scheme of the combination or in some cases even prohibit a combination if it is likely to harm competition and give the merged entity monopolistic holding in the market

Declining population – the china question



China's one-child policy was introduced in 1980, with the explicit objective of reducing population growth to zero. But though it ran for another 36 years until 2016, it is only now that China has entered "negative growth" – its numbers have started shrinking for the first

time in 60 years. According to data released by China's National Bureau of Statistics, the nation was home to 1.4118 billion people in 2022, which is 850,000 fewer than there were in 2021. It reflects a decline in the country's birth rate, which has been falling over the past six years to reach a record low of 6.77 births per 1,000 people.

In 1991, within just a few years of the one-child policy kicking in, China's birth rate had fallen to below replacement level. Each woman was having fewer children than the number required to maintain the population size from one generation to the next. In most countries, this is usually around 2.1 – one for each woman, one for her partner, and an extra 0.1 to counteract those that die as infants.

Until recently, China's population was relatively youthful, with an average age of 35 in 2010, compared to 44.3 in Germany (now it's 38.4). At the same time, people have been living longer – in 2021, the country's life expectancy overtook that of the US. So, though the number of babies born per woman declined drastically, there were still more babies being born than there were people dying.

According to the UN's World Population Prospects report for 2022, China's population was predicted to decline in 2023 – the reduction recently revealed by the country's census had been expected for some time.

Most of the growth will happen in sub-Saharan Africa, which is projected to contribute to more than half of the population increase between now and 2050. The headcount in the region is projected to double in that time, with Nigeria taking the slot as the fourth most populated country on the planet.

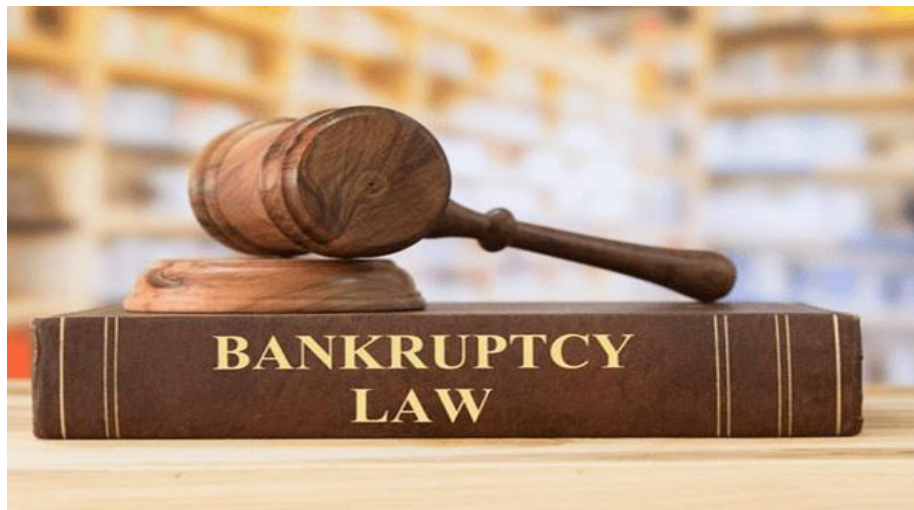
India's population is expected to keep going up, rising from 1.417 billion in 2022 to 1.515 billion by 2030. This is mostly down to two factors: fertility rates have remained high, while mortality rates have gone down due to improvements in medicine. Then there's the population's age structure. India's population is around a decade younger than China's on average, so there are more people of childbearing age in total.

The world's population growth poses challenges to eradicating global hunger and poverty, as well as to mitigating climate change, but China is not alone in worrying about its domestic population decline and its increasingly skewed age demographics. The U.N. projects that 61 countries or territories will see their population decrease by 1% or more between 2022 and

2050, thanks to declining birth rates and outward migration. At the same time, the World Health Organization estimates one in six people worldwide will reach the age of 60 by 2030.

China may learn lessons from countries like Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Australia, and others in the Asia-Pacific that have already been facing these headwinds.

Changes to the insolvency law



IBC was introduced in 2016 to fast-track the resolution of banks' non-performing assets (NPAs). In December 2016, the provisions on the corporate insolvency resolution process under IBC came into effect. The idea was to expedite and simplify the process of bankruptcy proceedings, ensuring fair negotiations between the borrower and creditors.

The Government has proposed some changes to the existing insolvency law aiming to enhance the efficiency of the bankruptcy process and expanding the scope of the framework.

The proposed changes include redesigning the fast-track corporate insolvency resolution process to permit financial creditors to drive the insolvency resolution process for a corporate debtor outside of the judicial process.

It is proposed to create a state-of-the-art electronic platform to provide for a case management system, automated processes to file applications, delivery of notices, and enabling interaction of insolvency professionals with stakeholders among other.

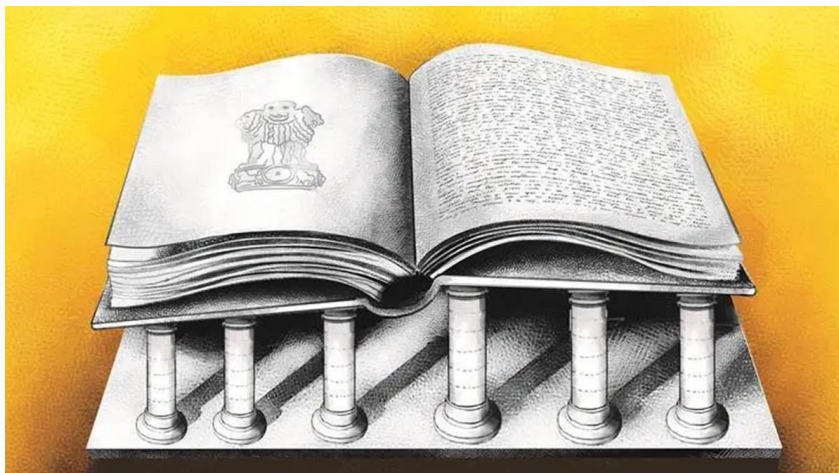
Besides, the government also proposed to amend section 10 to delete the right of the corporate debtor to propose an insolvency professional. In such instances, the insolvency

professional should be appointed by the adjudicating authority on the recommendation of the insolvency and bankruptcy board of India (IBBI).

The IBC is the nation's first comprehensive law to address the insolvency of corporate persons and individuals.

Already, the government has made a slew of amendments and introduction of new frameworks for various entities in the last few years. In addition, a separate customised framework was also notified under the Code for the financial service providers in November 2019.

Basic structure doctrine



The doctrine forms the basis of a power of the Supreme Court to review and strike down constitutional amendments and acts enacted by the parliament which conflict with or seek to alter this "basic structure" of the constitution. The basic features of the constitution have not been explicitly defined by the judiciary, and the claim of any particular feature of the constitution to be a "basic" feature is determined by the court in each case that comes before it.

In 1967, the Supreme Court reversed its earlier decisions in *Golaknath v. state of Punjab*. It held that fundamental rights included in part iii of the constitution are given a "transcendental position" and are beyond the reach of parliament. It also declared any amendment that "takes away or abridges" a fundamental right conferred by part iii as unconstitutional. In 1973, the basic structure doctrine was formally introduced with rigorous legal reasoning in Justice Hans Raj Khanna's decisive judgment in the landmark decision of *Kesavananda Bharati v. state of Kerala*.

Previously, the Supreme Court had held that the power of parliament to amend the constitution was unfettered. However, in this landmark ruling, the court adjudicated that while parliament has "wide" powers, it did not have the power to destroy or emasculate the basic elements or fundamental features of the constitution.

There is no reference in the constitution of the term basic structure. The term has developed across a number of case laws.

Case laws:

- Shankari Prasad v. Union of India (1951)
- Sajjan Singh v. state of Rajasthan
- Golaknath v. state of Panjab (1967)
- Kesavananda Bharti v. state of Kerala (1971)
- Minerals mills v. union of India (1980)
- S.R Bommai v. union if India (1994)

In 1973, in the case of Kesavananda Bharti v. State Of Kerala, the SC affirmed the legality of the 24th constitution amendment act by examining its verdict in Golaknath case. The SC ruled that the parliament had the right to change every clause in the constitution, but the basic structure of the constitution should be preserved. Nevertheless, the apex court did not provide a specific description of the basic structure. It held that even a constitutional amendment does not abolish the basic framework of the constitution. Throughout the decision, some of the fundamental characteristics of the constitution have been set down by judges, which are as follows:

1. Supremacy of the constitution
2. Republican and democratic form of government
3. Secular character of the constitution
4. Federal character of the constitution
5. Separation of power
6. Dignity and sovereignty of India

Aspirational blocks program



Aspirational Block Programme (ABP) is aimed at improving performance of blocks lagging on various development parameters.

The programme will cover 500 districts across 31 states and Union Territories initially. Over half of these blocks are in 6 states—Uttar Pradesh (68 blocks), Bihar (61), Madhya Pradesh (42), Jharkhand (34), Odisha (29) and West Bengal (29). However, states can add more blocks to the programme later.

The Aspirational Blocks Programme is on the lines of the Aspirational District Programme that was launched in 2018 and covers 112 districts across the country.

It was launched in 2018 which aims to transform districts that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas.

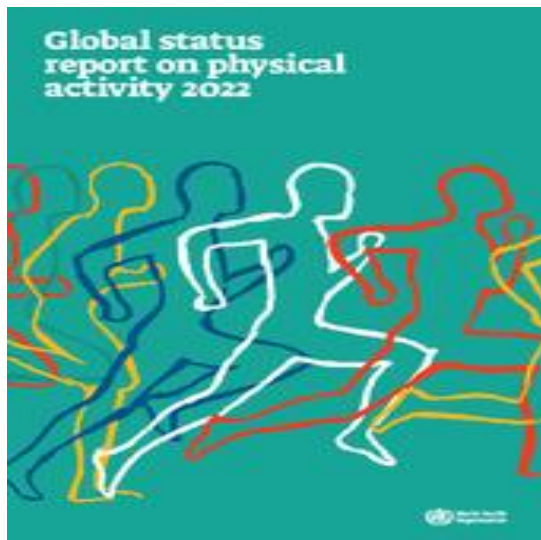
- Aspirational Districts are those districts in India, that are affected by poor socio-economic indicators.
- At Government of India level, programme is anchored by NITI Aayog. In addition, individual Ministries have assumed responsibility to drive progress of districts.
- The components of Aspirational District Programme include – Convergence (of Central & State Schemes), Collaboration (of Central, State level ‘Prabhari’ Officers & District Collectors) and Competition among districts through monthly delta ranking.
- The delta ranking of the Aspirational Districts combines the innovative use of data with pragmatic administration, keeping the district at the locus of inclusive development.
- It focuses on the strength of each district, identifying low-hanging fruits for immediate

improvement and measuring progress by ranking districts on a monthly basis.

- Districts are prodded and encouraged to first catch up with the best district within their state, and

subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the country, by competing with, and learning from others in the spirit of competitive & cooperative federalism.

New status report from WHO



WHO's Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018-2030 (GAPPA) provided recommendations to help countries increase levels of physical activity within their populations, by developing and implementing dedicated comprehensive national policies to ensure safer roads for cycling and walking; accessible opportunities for active recreation where people live, work and play; and on physical activity. Four years after GAPPA the first Global status report on physical activity charts progress on country implementation of these recommendations to achieve the global target of a 15% relative reduction in the prevalence of physical inactivity by 2030.

The economic burden of physical inactivity is large. Globally, almost 500 million (499 208 million) new cases of preventable NCDs will occur between 2020 and 2030, incurring treatment costs of just over US\$ 300 billion (INT\$ 524 billion) or around US\$ 27 billion (INT\$ 48 billion) annually if there is no change in the current prevalence of physical inactivity. Nearly half of these new cases of NCDs (47%) will result from hypertension, and 43% will result from depression. Three quarters of all cases will occur in lower- and upper-middle-income countries. The largest economic cost is set to occur among high-income

countries, which will account for 70% of health-care expenditure on treating illness resulting from physical inactivity.

This first Global status report on physical activity presents a synthesis of global progress on implementation of GAPPa recommendations. The report was requested by Member States under World Health Assembly Resolution 71.6 and describes the current situation – and where possible, recent trends – using the best available data and set of 29 indicators. Data for this report are drawn from two primary sources: the WHO Noncommunicable Disease Country Capacity Survey (2019 and 2022) and the WHO Global status report on road safety (2018). These data also offer the first insight into the impact of COVID-19 on countries' capacity for, and progress towards, implementing policies related to physical activity. This report is for everyone involved in promoting and delivering national and subnational policies that provide the environments and programmes that drive participation in physical activity. It provides five recommended actions to promote physical activity as the world continues to respond to, and recover from, the COVID-19 pandemic, and to accelerate action to achieve the SDGs – particularly SDG 3 on health and well-being.

Regular physical activity is a key protective factor for the prevention and management of NCDs – indeed, those who meet recommended levels of physical activity have a 20–30% reduced risk of premature death. About 7–8% of all cases of cardiovascular disease, depression and dementia, and about 5% of type-2 diabetes cases, could be prevented if people were more active. These preventable NCDs have an impact not only on individuals and their families, but also on health services and society as a whole. Physical activity also benefits mental health, including prevention of cognitive decline and symptoms of depression and anxiety, and improves children's educational attainment. It can also contribute to the maintenance of healthy weight and general well-being.

Jal Jeevan mission



Jal Jeevan Mission, is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India. The programme will also implement source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, rain water harvesting. The Jal Jeevan Mission will be based on a community approach to water and will include extensive Information, Education and communication as a key component of the mission. The Jal Jeevan Mission will be based on a community approach to water and will include extensive Information, Education and communication as a key component of the mission. JJM looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.

The broad objectives of the Mission are:

- To provide FHTC to every rural household.
- To prioritize provision of FHTCs in qualityaffected areas, villages in drought prone and desert areas, Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) villages, etc.
- To provide functional tap connection to Schools, Anganwadi centres, GP buildings, Health centres, wellness centres and community buildings
- To monitor functionality of tap connections.
- To promote and ensure voluntary ownership among local community by way of contribution in cash, kind and/ or labour and voluntary labour (shramdaan)
- To assist in ensuring sustainability of water supply system, i.e. water source, water supply infrastructure, and funds for regular O&M

- To empower and develop human resource in the sector such that the demands of construction, plumbing, electrical, water quality management, water treatment, catchment protection, O&M, etc. are taken care of in short and long term
- To bring awareness on various aspects and significance of safe drinking water and involvement of stakeholders in manner that make water everyone's business

The following components are supported under JJM

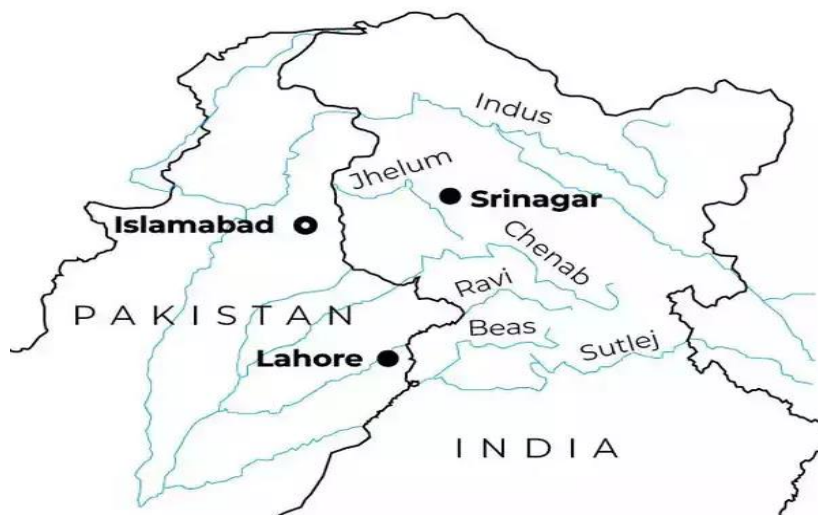
- Efforts should be made to source funds from different sources/ programmes and convergence is the key
- Development of in-village piped water supply infrastructure to provide tap water connection to every rural household
- Development of reliable drinking water sources and/ or augmentation of existing sources to provide long-term sustainability of water supply system
- Wherever necessary, bulk water transfer, treatment plants and distribution network to cater to every rural household
- Technological interventions for removal of contaminants where water quality is an issue
- Retrofitting of completed and ongoing schemes to provide FHTCs at minimum service level of 55 lpcd;
- Greywater management
- Support activities, i.e. IEC, HRD, training, development of utilities, water quality laboratories, water quality testing & surveillance, R&D, knowledge centre, capacity building of communities, etc.
- Any other unforeseen challenges/ issues emerging due to natural disasters/ calamities which affect the goal of FHTC to every household by 2024, as per guidelines of Ministry of Finance on Flexi Funds

Indus pact amendment

Division of rivers as per Indus Waters Treaty

Eastern rivers to India: Sutlej, Beas, Ravi

Western rivers to Pakistan: Chenab, Jhelum and Indus



India has issued a notice to Pakistan stating the need to amend the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960.

Under the Indus Waters Agreement signed between India and Pakistan September 19, 1960, the waters of the eastern rivers (Ravi, Basin, Sutlej and its tributaries) in the Indus Water System were allocated to India. On the other hand, India has to maintain the water flow of the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab and its tributaries). The Kishanganga (Neelum) and Ratle hydropower projects in India's Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are on these western rivers, which Pakistan has objected to. In 2015, India had requested Pakistan to appoint a neutral expert to examine the Kishanganga and Ratle hydropower projects and reveal their technical flaws. However, in 2016, Pakistan unilaterally proposed that an arbitration court adjudicate on its objections.

In 2016, taking cognizance of this, the World Bank had recommended to stop the process on both sides and find an amicable solution.

Introduction of T+1 settlement



After China, India will become the second country in the world to start the ‘trade-plus-one’ (T+1) settlement cycle in top listed securities bringing operational efficiency, faster fund remittances, share delivery, and ease for stock market participants.

The T+1 settlement cycle means that trade-related settlements must be done within a day, or 24 hours, of the completion of a transaction.

The T+1 settlement cycle means that trade-related settlements must be done within a day, or 24 hours, of the completion of a transaction. Until 2001, stock markets had a weekly settlement system. The markets then moved to a rolling settlement system of T+3, and then to T+2 in 2003. T+1 is being implemented despite opposition from foreign investors. The United States, United Kingdom and Eurozone markets are yet to move to the T+1 system.

A shortened settlement cycle also reduces the number of outstanding unsettled trades at any point of time, and thus decreases the unsettled exposure to Clearing Corporation by 50 per cent. The narrower the settlement cycle, the narrower the time window for a counterparty insolvency/ bankruptcy to impact the settlement of a trade.

As per the SEBI opinion, a shortened settlement cycle will help in reducing systemic risk.

Foreign investors were against SEBI’s T+1 proposal, and had written to the regulator and the Finance Ministry about the operational issues. Among the issues raised by them were time zone differences, information flow processes, and foreign exchange problems.

Rohini panel extension



The panel was tasked with the sub-categorisation of the Other Backward Classes has been given its 14th extension.

The commission was formed by the President under Article 340 of the constitution in October 2017. It was first given 12 weeks to slot the nearly 3,000 caste groups that make up India's OBCs into categories. The commission would then have to recommend how the 27% reservation for OBCs could be distributed among these sub-categories in a manner that was most equitable

In 2018, a consultation paper prepared by the commission was reported to have found that of the jobs and educational positions reserved for OBCs at the Central level, 97% have gone to people from less than a quarter of all OBC sub-castes. In addition, 938 OBC sub-castes – which make up 37% of the total number – have no representation at all in the reserved seats.

ASER latest survey



The ASER, is an annual, citizen-led household survey that aims to understand whether children in rural India are enrolled in school and whether they are learning. ASER has been conducted every year since 2005 in all rural districts of India.

ASER surveys provided representative estimates of the enrolment status of children aged 3-16 and the basic reading and arithmetic levels of children aged 5-16 at the national, state and district level.

- From 6.7 per cent in 2018 to 2.2 per cent in 2022, there has been a significant dip in reading abilities of class 2 students
- The proportion of children enrolled in government schools has increased since 2018 at the national level. From 2010 to 2014, the enrollment in government schools saw a decline, it was followed by a 'plateau' period from 2014 to 2018. And, from 2018 to 2022 there has been an increase of 7.3 percentage points in government school enrollment.
- 2022 was the first time when the percentage of children currently not enrolled in schools dropped to 2 per cent or below. Even after prolonged school closures during the pandemic period, proportion of children not enrolled in school continued to decline between 2018 and 2022.
- As per the ASER 2022, there has been a record high in the number of enrollment, reaching the highest level since the introduction of the Right to Education Act in 2009. During the pandemic there was a spike in dropout rates, which was temporary
- In 2022, percentage of girls (15 to 16 year old) not enrolled in schools continued to decline. In 2022, the percentage was 7.9 per cent. The state with the highest percentage of girls in the age bracket of 15 to 16 year old not going to school was Madhya Pradesh (17.0), followed by Uttar Pradesh (15.0) and Chhattisgarh (11.1)
- In the reading and arithmetic levels of boys and girls in Grade V and Grade VIII, girls perform better in reading skills while boys in arithmetic
- In 2022, for the first time, the percentage of children currently not enrolled in school has dropped to 2% or below. Despite prolonged school closures, the proportion of children not enrolled in school continued to decline between 2018 and 2022.
- At All India level, there is little to no difference in the learning levels of children by their gender. However, variations exist across states and regions. For example, in all

southern states and in Maharashtra, girls outperform boys in both reading and arithmetic tasks in class 5 and 8

India Egypt strategic partnership



India, Egypt elevates ties to strategic partnership.

There will be broadly four elements: political, defence and security; economic engagement; scientific and academic collaboration; and cultural and people-to-people contacts.

It was made clear that both visions aligned with regard to the importance of strengthening the ongoing cooperation in various fields and of moving toward partnerships in new areas, including cooperation in new and renewable energy, particularly the production of green hydrogen.

Both nations also agreed on stepping-up our strategic cooperation in a multitude of areas, primarily agriculture; higher education; chemicals, fertilizers and medicines industries, as well as IT and communications and cyber security.

Egypt and India share a civilizational dimension that is deeply rooted in human history.

The two sides inked five agreements providing for cooperation in areas of culture, IT, cyber security, youth matters and broadcasting.