

International Energy Agency (IEA) Releases World Energy Outlook 2023

Key highlights

- ⊖ **Fossil fuel share** in the global energy supply is projected to **reduce from around 80% to 73% by 2030**.
 - » Global energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions peaking by 2025.
- ⊖ **Renewables are set to contribute 80% of new power capacity by 2030** in the stated policies scenario (STEPS), with solar PV alone accounting for more than half of this.
- ⊖ **Extreme volatility in energy markets** highlighted the importance of affordable, reliable and resilient supply.

India specific observations

- ⊖ India has now become an **importer of modern clean energy technologies** as it scales up solar and wind power generation capacity.
- ⊖ Over the past five years, solar PV has accounted for nearly **60% of new generation capacity**.
- ⊖ India's demand for **electricity for running household air-conditioners** is estimated to expand **nine-fold by 2050**.

Suggestions:

- ⊖ Need to Scale up clean energy investment in emerging and developing economies.
- ⊖ **Expanded, modernised and cyber-secure transmission and distribution grids are critical** to electricity security.
- ⊖ Pay attention to the **resilience of clean energy technology supply chains**.

About IEA

- ▶ **IEA was founded in 1974** to ensure the security of oil supplies. Energy security remains a central part of its mission.
- ▶ **Membership: 31 countries (India is not a member)**.
- ▶ India is **part of 'association countries'** of IEA.
- ▶ **Headquarters: Paris, France**.

India pitches to Host Olympics in 2036, at International Olympic Committee (IOC) session

- ▶ **Only three Asian countries** have ever hosted Olympics - **China, South Korea, and Japan**, with Japan hosting the **games twice** in 1964 and 2020.

- ▶ Established in **1894**, IOC is a **not-for-profit independent international organization** based in Lausanne, (Switzerland).

Selection of Olympic host

- ⊖ IOC is responsible for **electing Olympic host**.
- ⊖ Process is **overseen by two permanent Future Host Commissions (FHC)**: one for the **Summer** and one for the **Winter Games**.
- ⊖ **FHC**, comprised of **IOC Members and other Olympic stakeholders**, makes recommendations to the **IOC Executive Board (EB)**, regarding **possible future hosts**, and decisions put forward for election.
- ⊖ **Election**: A host is **elected by a majority of the votes** cast by **secret ballot**. Each active member has one vote.
 - ◆ In voting, if no majority, **the least-voted candidate is eliminated** until one obtains a majority.

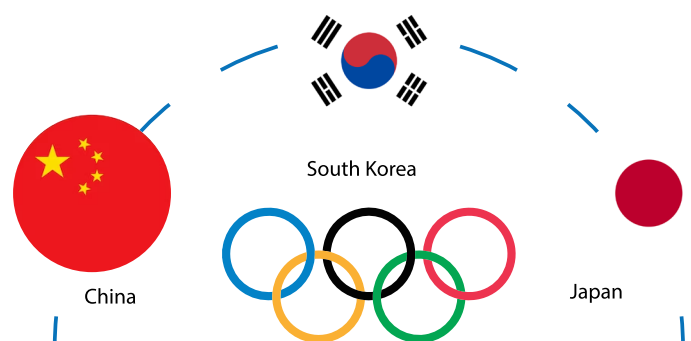
Approach for selection criteria: 2-stage process without any fixed deadlines, to assess, discuss and guide potential hosts, viz:

- ▶ **Continuous dialogue**: discussion between the IOC's FHCs and interested parties.
- ▶ **Targeted dialogue**: After a feasibility study, FHC recommends inviting one or more parties as Preferred Hosts.

Benefits of hosting Olympic Games

- ⊖ **Increase forex reserve inflow** due to international tourist visits.
- ⊖ **Built communications, and sports infrastructure**, can be used for decades afterward.
- ⊖ **Increase in civic pride**, local sense of community among the people of the host city, etc.

- ▶ **Possible issues in effectively hosting Olympic Games**: cost overruns, poor land use, inadequate planning, underutilization of facilities, etc.



Mumbai recorded poorer Air Quality Index (AQI) than Delhi

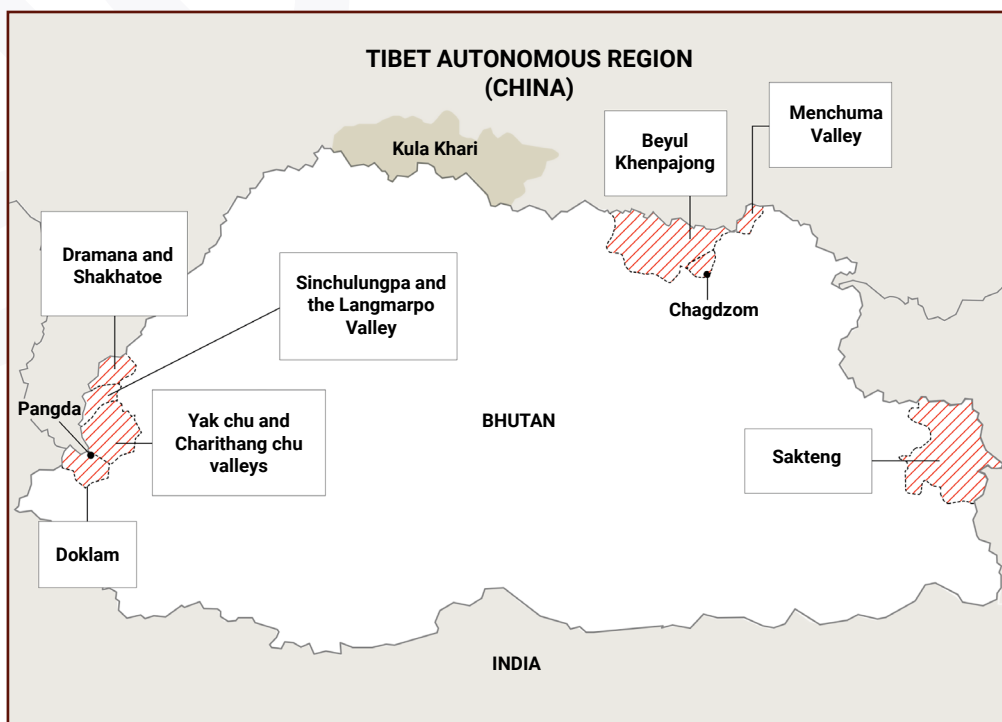
- The AQI of Mumbai breached the 300 mark signifying 'very poor' air quality
- Usually, Mumbai air is considered cleaner **due to factor** caused by **Coastal location**:
 - ⊕ Strong surface winds **lead to faster dispersal of pollutants**, and the **strong sea breeze sweeps** away pollution particles from the land.
- **Factors causing current AQI**
 - ⊕ **Change in local wind pattern**: a cycle of wind patterns **between sea to land** and **land to sea** is disturbed which increases the Particulate Matter (PM) in the air leading to poor AQI.
 - ◆ Dip in La Nina (**cooling of the ocean surface and change in wind patterns**) partially caused a sudden spike in PM in coastal cities.
 - ⊕ **Temperature gradient**: temperature difference between the city and nearby hills, draws winds and dust from areas like Navi Mumbai towards the city.
 - ⊕ **Generation of pollutants**: pollutants from road dust, construction sites, automobile exhaust, usage of unclean fuel etc.
- **AQI communicates air quality status** using **six categories** (ranging from **Good to Severe**)
 - ⊕ It is based on levels of **eight pollutants** including **PM10, PM2.5, Ozone (O3), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2), Sulphur Dioxide (SO2), Lead (Pb) and Ammonia (NH3)**.

Government Initiatives to curtail Air pollution:

- **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** was launched as a time-bound program to reduce air pollution in a comprehensive manner .
- **System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR)** was launched to know the Air Quality and Over all city pollution and Location specific Air Quality through AQI.
- **Other initiatives include**: Launching of National Air Quality index, Setting up of National Ambient Air Quality Standards, adopting cleaner fuel standards BS-VI etc.

Bhutan, China Hold 25th round of boundary talks, Sign "Cooperation Agreement"

- The agreement outlines the **responsibilities and functions** of the Joint Technical Team (JTT) on delimitation and demarcation of the boundary between two countries.
 - ⊕ Boundary talks have been stalled since 2016, especially after the 2017 Doklam stand-off.
 - ⊕ JTT was established, earlier in 2023, to assist in the **implementation of the Three-Step Roadmap**.
- The history of the **Bhutan-China border** dispute started in 1950 when China published a map claiming areas in the west and north of Bhutan.
 - ⊕ Boundary Talks between both **began in 1984**.
 - ⊕ They signed the Agreement on **Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity** in 1998.
 - ⊕ The **disputed territories** include:
 - ◆ Pasamlung and Jakarlung valleys (in the North of Bhutan)
 - ◆ In the west, **Doklam**, Dramana, and Shakhatoe, Yak Chu and Charithang Chu, and Sinchulungpa and Langmarpo valleys.
 - ◆ Recently, China has also claimed **Sakteng sanctuary**, in Bhutan's east.
- **Why significant for India?**
 - ⊕ China proposed a "swap arrangement", where China concede its northern claims for Bhutan accepting western claims, including Doklam would be of concern to India.
 - ◆ **Doklam trijunction** is crucial for India as it lies close to the Siliguri Corridor.
 - ⊕ **Sakteng sanctuary** borders Arunachal Pradesh.



Indian Tradition Performed in Trinidad and Tobago islands

- The tradition of performing **Ram Leela** is still carried in Trinidad and Tobago islands by Indian Diaspora, who migrated to the island as indentured laborers, from India.
- **Who were indentured labourers?**
 - ⊕ These were laborers that the British recruited to work in their plantations across different colonies on account of abolition of Slave trade in 1834 in the British Empire.
 - ⊕ Often referred to as **Girimityas**.
 - ⊕ They were mostly from the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Tamil Nadu.
 - ⊕ Settled in 19 colonies of the British including Fiji, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Trinidad, Guyana, Malaysia, Uganda, Kenya, and South Africa.
- **Abolition of Indentured labour**
 - ⊕ In 1916, Madan Mohan Malviya moved a resolution in the Indian Legislative Council for the abolition of the indenture system.
 - ⊕ Later, it was officially abolished by British government in 1917.
- In South Africa, under the **Smuts Gandhi Settlement (1914)**, Gandhiji obtained a waiver from Poll- tax for the indentured laborers.
- **Significance**
 - ⊕ **Cultural:** played an important role in the Spread of Indian Culture across the globe by building temples for Indian gods and celebrating the Indian festivals and rituals to date.
 - ⊕ **Diaspora:** many laborers became small planters themselves, playing major roles in the political and economic aspects and pioneers of the Indian diaspora in those societies.

Phenomenal impact of PM SVANidhi scheme on street vendors: An analysis by SBI

- **Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** scheme is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
 - ⊕ **Objective:** Integrating street vendors into the formal economic system and facilitating access to formal channels of credit
 - ⊕ **Key features**
 - ◆ It is a micro-credit scheme for urban street vendors to provide collateral-free working capital loans up to ₹50,000.
 - ◆ Regular repayments are incentivized with a 7% interest subsidy
 - ◆ Digital transactions are rewarded with cashback up to ₹1,200 per year.
- **Key Findings**
 - ⊕ **Impact on women:** 43% of the total beneficiaries are women which indicates the empowerment of entrepreneurial capabilities of urban females.
 - ⊕ **Breaking down community barriers:** Almost 75% of beneficiaries come from the non- general category (OBCs- 44%, SCs/STs-22%) whereas 65% are in the age group of 26-45.
 - ⊕ **Popularity of Scheme:** The persistency ratio (2nd loan/1st loan repaid) is increasing indicating the need and popularity of Scheme.
 - ⊕ **Digital transactions:** It has increased the acceptability of digital transactions.
 - ⊕ **Consumer Behaviour:** The average debit card spending of PM Svanidhi account holders increased by 50% after loan instalments, marking a significant change in their financial behaviour.

Also in News



Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal

- **Centre constituted** a tribunal for adjudicating the matter under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.
- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal**
 - ⊕ **Constituted by the Central Government** to confirm a ban on an organization.
 - ⊕ The tribunal is made up of a High Court judge appointed by the Central Government.
 - ⊕ **Under Section 4 of the UAPA**, if an association is deemed unlawful, the Centre has to refer it to a tribunal within 30 days. The tribunal then decides if there's enough reason for the unlawful label
- It has powers of a civil court and regulate its own procedure.



Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

- **ITBP** celebrates its raising day.
- ITBP is a specialized Armed Police Force established in 1962.
- It is one of the 7 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)
 - ⊕ **6 remaining CAPFs:** Sashastra Seema Bal, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Central Industrial Security Force, National Security Guard, and Assam rifles.
- It is backed by the ITBPF Act, of 1992, and rules framed in 1994.
- It trains its personnel in various disciplines including mountaineering and skiing apart from intensive tactical training.



Exercise Harimau Shakti-2023

- It's joint bilateral training exercise of Indian & Malaysian Army.



National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL)

- The logo, website and brochure of NCEL launched.
- NCEL was established as umbrella **organisation for cooperative sector exports** in January, 2023.
- It was registered under **Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002**.
- Its **objectives** include, increasing exports, making farmers prosperous, providing global market for organic products, gaining a place for India in the global market for biofuel etc.
- All cooperative societies who are **interested in exports**, are eligible to become member of NCEL.



Nano Di-Ammonia Phosphate (DAP) liquid

- **Country's first Nano DAP plant** by IFFCO was opened near **Kalol in Gandhinagar (Gujarat)**
- DAP liquid is an **efficient source of Nitrogen and Phosphorus**, which helps in overcoming their deficiencies in the soil.
- **Advantage: in terms of surface area to volume** as its particle size is less than 100 Nanometre (nm) enabling it to enter inside the seed surface or through stomata.
- **Other benefits:** Increase in crop yield and farmers income, Reduction in chemical usage, easy to store and transport etc.



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- India and IAEA agreed to cooperate on extending nuclear technology applications in the Global South.
- IAEA is the **world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field**.
 - ⊕ India has been a founding member of the IAEA since 1957.
- To verify that nuclear materials are used solely for peaceful purposes, the **IAEA has developed a system of 'Safeguards Agreements'**.
- India and the IAEA signed an **Agreement for Application of Safeguards to Civilian Nuclear facilities in India in 2009**.



Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) Cards

- SIM card is a **microchip, that identifies subscriber on a given network**.
- It is **mandatory for a mobile phone to connect** to any network that follows the Global System for Mobile Communications (**GSM**) standards.
- **Other functions:** store information about its own ID number, International Mobile Subscriber Identity (**IMSI**), the subscriber's **location area identity, contacts and messages**.
- Latest version of SIM is '**e-SIM**' – that is software loaded to a **Universal Integrated Circuit Card**.
 - ⊕ It is permanently installed in the mobile equipment.



QR code in Food labelling

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recommended the **inclusion of QR codes on food products for accessibility** by visually impaired individuals.
 - ⊕ It is in line with the **Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations 2020** and also adheres to the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016**.
- **These QR codes should encompass comprehensive details about the product including** Ingredients, Nutritional information, Allergens, Manufacturing date, Best before or use by date etc.



Places in News



Benin (Capital: Porto-Novo)

- MEA said India is Benin's largest trade partner and significant investor.
- **Political boundaries**
 - ⊕ Burkina Faso (northwest), Nigeria (east), Togo (west), Niger (North), **Atlantic ocean** (South).
 - ⊕ **Bight of Benin is a bay in Atlantic Ocean bordering Benin**.
 - ⊕ **Niger River** forms Benin's border with Niger.
- **Geographical features**
 - ⊕ **Atakora Mountains** in the northwest, form a continuation of the Togo Mountains to south.
 - ⊕ **Other major rivers:** Mono, Couffo, and Ouémé.
 - ⊕ **Highest point:** Mount Sokbaro



AHMEDABAD



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



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SIKAR