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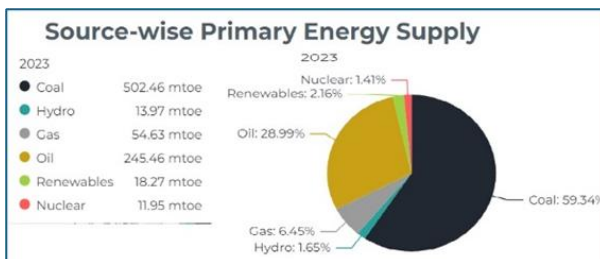
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INDIA'S ENERGY DEMAND TO TRIPLE BY 2050

- India is experiencing rapid energy demand growth, but its overall energy consumption per person remains low compared to global averages.
- In 2023, **India ranked third in primary energy consumption globally**, at 39.02 exajoules (EJ), behind China (170.74 EJ) and the USA (94.28 EJ).
- However, India's per capita energy consumption was just 27.3 gigajoules (GJ), far below China's 120 GJ and the US's 277.3 GJ.
- India's per capita usage is comparable to Southern African countries (excluding South Africa) and much lower than the world average of 77 GJ.
- While India is steadily increasing its energy use, it is still far from reaching the consumption levels associated with high human development (around 100 GJ per person), which other large economies have already surpassed.

Energy consumption



• Growth

- In 2023, India's energy consumption grew by over 7.3 percent compared to 5.6 percent in 2022.

○ The revival of economic activity following the end of the pandemic was among many drivers of growth in energy consumption in 2023.

Fossil Fuel Consumption

- India's Coal Consumption in 2023
 - In 2023, India's coal consumption for power generation reached 749 million tonnes (MT), surpassing the combined consumption of the US (280 MT) and Europe (286 MT).

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- **India's Oil Consumption in 2023**
 - India's oil consumption stood at 5.18 million barrels per day in 2023, the fourth largest globally after the US, China, and Europe.
 - The US's oil consumption was nearly equivalent to the combined totals of China and India.
 - Per capita oil use in the US was more than 15 times higher than in India.
- **India's Natural Gas Consumption in 2023**
 - India's natural gas consumption in 2023 was 62.6 billion cubic meters (BCM), accounting for just 1.6% of global consumption. The US was the largest consumer (886.5 BCM), followed by Europe (463.4 BCM) and Russia (453.4 BCM).
- **Non-Fossil Fuel Consumption**
 - In 2023, India saw a 15% decline in hydropower consumption due to reduced rainfall, following an 8.9% growth in 2022.
 - However, India ranked fourth in global renewable energy consumption, behind China, the US, and Europe, which together accounted for nearly 60% of global renewables usage.
 - India contributed 6.9% of global renewables consumption, with an impressive annual growth of 18.7% in 2023.

Issues

- **India's Energy Profile vs. Global Energy Profile**
 - India's energy consumption differs significantly from the global average in coal and natural gas usage. Coal accounts for 59% of India's commercial energy consumption, compared to 26% globally, while natural gas makes up around 6% of India's energy mix, versus 26% globally.
 - This divergence is due to India's domestic coal availability, which ensures energy security and affordability.
 - In other energy sources, India is more aligned with global averages.
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NATIONAL URBAN LIVELIHOOD MISSION (NULM 2.0)

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)?

- The NULM was launched by the **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MHUPA)** in **2013** by replacing the existing Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY).
 - It got its current name (DAY-NULM) in **2016**.
- It focuses on -
 - **Organising urban poor** in their strong grassroots level institutions (self-help groups [SHGs]) to improve their livelihoods on a sustainable basis.
 - **Creating opportunities for skill development** leading to market-based employment and
 - **Helping them to set up self-employment ventures** by ensuring easy access to credit.
- The Mission is aimed at
 - **Providing shelter** equipped with essential services to the urban homeless in a phased manner.

Implementation and Performance of the DAY-NULM:

- **Implementation:**
 - **The primary target** of NULM is the urban poor, including the urban homeless.
 - NULM was implemented in **all district headquarter towns** (irrespective of population) and **all other towns with population of 1 lakh or more** as per Census 2011.
 - **At present 790 cities are under NULM**. However, other towns may be allowed in exceptional cases on request of the States.
 - **Funding** will be shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of **75:25**.
 - For North Eastern and Special Category States, this ratio will be **90:10**.
- **Performance:**

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- **Constitution of SHGs:**
 - Under the Mission, more than 89.33 lakh women had been brought under a total of 8.74 lakh SHGs in the cities.
 - Of these, 6.12 lakh SHGs are provided with a revolving fund of Rs 10,000 each to get started.
- **Skills and employment provided by the SHGs:**
 - 15 lakh beneficiaries had undergone skill training and 8.20 lakh had been placed in employment.
 - In addition, 8.83 lakh beneficiaries had been assisted to set up their own or group businesses.
- **For street vendors**, the Mission had conducted surveys to identify their number in 3,467 cities.
 - A total of 53.76 lakh vendors had been identified and given letters of recommendation.
 - This also led to 37.52 lakh vendors being issued certificates of vending and 30.99 lakh were issued ID cards.

What is the DAY-NULM 2.0?

- The government will facilitate eligible individual urban poor or a group of such persons to avail **microcredit** of up to Rs 4 lakh and Rs 20 lakh, respectively.
 - This microcredit will be provided **at a subsidised interest of 5%**.
 - The microcredit will help the beneficiaries to -
 - Start enterprises;
 - Create social infrastructure like labour chowk; and
 - Provide innovation grants for purposes such as buying sanitation machineries.
 - To prepare the ground for the NULM 2.0, **the Centre will carry out a first of a kind pilot exercise** (across 25 cities) –
 - **To identify urban poor** and
 - For right targeting of government schemes to improve their earning and living.
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ISRAEL'S BAN ON THE UN CHIEF

Why in news?

Recently, Israel had banned United Nations Secretary- General (UNSG) António Guterres from entering the country. Israel accused him of “backing” Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and Iran.

Why did Israel declare UNSG Persona Non Grata?

- **Reason for Declaration**
 - Israeli Foreign Minister declared United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) António Guterres as persona non grata (PNG), barring him from setting foot in Israel.
 - This decision was taken due to the UNSG's failure to "unequivocally condemn" Iran's missile strikes on Israel.
- **Accusation of Silence on Previous Hamas Attack**
 - Israel also criticized Guterres for not condemning a previous attack by Hamas on October 7, 2023, which resulted in the deaths of about 1,200 Israelis and the taking of 250 hostages.
- **UNSG's Previous Statements**
 - Contrary to Israel's claims, Mr. Guterres and UN bodies have condemned the Hamas attack multiple times.
 - In April, the UNSG condemned the use of "sexual violence, torture, and kidnapping of civilians," labeling the atrocities by Hamas as unjustifiable.
- **Guterres' Response to Recent Escalations**
 - In the latest conflict escalation, including Israeli strikes on Lebanon and Iran's launch of 200 missiles on Israeli bases, Guterres called for a ceasefire and condemned the broadening of the conflict but did not name Israel or Iran specifically.
- **UNSG's Clarification**

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- Following Israel's declaration of the PNG status, Guterres issued a clarification strongly condemning the "massive missile attack by Iran on Israel."
- Despite this, Israel has not revoked the ban.

Unprecedented Nature of Israel's Ban of UNSG

- Israel's ban on UNSG António Guterres is unprecedented.
 - Analysts say that the closest a similar action occurred was in 1950 when the USSR accused UNSG Trygve Lie of bias during the Korean crisis and threatened to veto his re-election.
 - Later, the U.S. had banned former UNSG Kurt Waldheim in 1987 due to his complicity in Nazi war crimes during World War II.
 - But this happened after his term as UNSG and during his presidency of Austria.
 - Citing Article 100, paragraph 2 of the UN Charter, they emphasized the importance of the UNSG for both substantive and logistical reasons.
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LIPULEKH PASS



Recently, Pilgrims had the first-ever view of the sacred Kailash peak from the Old Lipulekh pass inside the Indian territory.

- **Location:** It is a high-altitude mountain pass located in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand, near the trijunction of India, Nepal and China.
- It links the Indian state of Uttarakhand with the Tibet region of China.
- It lies at an altitude of approximately 5,334 meters (17,500 feet).
- Its elevation and strategic location make it a gateway to the higher reaches of the Himalayas. The Old Lipulekh Pass is situated in the Vyas Valley of Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand and it carries immense religious significance.
- It is the first Indian border post opened for trade with China in 1992. This was followed by the opening of Shipki La Pass, Himachal Pradesh in 1994 and Nathu La Pass, Sikkim in 2006.



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- **Significance**

- **Ancient Trade Route:** Lipulekh Pass has been utilized for centuries as a trade route, connecting the Indian subcontinent with the Tibetan plateau.
- **Religious Significance:** The pass also has religious significance, being an integral part of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, a sacred pilgrimage for Hindus.
- Devotees undertake this arduous journey to reach Mount Kailash, considered the abode of Lord Shiva, and the nearby Mansarovar Lake.

WHAT IS BUSINESS- READY INDEX?



- The B-READY index is a **successor to the Ease of Doing Business rankings**, which were discontinued in 2021 due to irregularities.
- It is a ground-breaking initiative that aims to focus on **quantitatively assessing the business environment across world economies**.
- It envisages taking into consideration more diverse factors while arriving at the rating.
- Global financial institutions and multinational companies will use the B-Ready framework as a benchmark to understand the regulatory and policy environment of a country.
- It will be published annually, considering three main pillars: regulatory framework, public services, and efficiency.
- The index incorporates digitalization, environmental sustainability, and gender equality into each indicator, ensuring a holistic and forward-thinking approach to business evaluation.
- It tracks **ten parameters** covering a firm's lifecycle from starting, operating, closing, and reorganising.
- The index will expand in three stages, covering 54 economies initially and reaching up to **180 countries by 2026**.



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HIRAKUD DAM

Built six decades ago, the canal network connected to Hirakud Dam, one of the biggest projects in eastern India, is all set to be renovated.



Hirakud Dam is the **longest dam in India** and the **longest earthen dam in the world**.

- **Total Length:** 79 km
- The dam was built across the **Mahanadi River** about 15 km upstream of Sambalpur town in the state of Odisha.
- It is made of earth, concrete and masonry.
- The dam forms a vast reservoir known as the **Hirakud Reservoir or Hirakud Lake**. It is the **biggest artificial lake in Asia**, with an area of 746 sq.km.
- This is one of the oldest hydel projects in India, being the **first post-independence major multipurpose river valley project** in the country. It was inaugurated in the year **1957**.
- **Purpose:**
 - The project provides 1,55,635 hectares of Kharif and 1,08,385 ha of Rabi **irrigation**.
 - The installed capacity for **power generation** is 359.8 MW.
 - More than 436,000 hectares of land in the **Mahanadi Delta** also get irrigated by the water which is released from the powerhouse.
 - Besides, the project provides **flood protection** to 9500 sq. km of delta area.
- **Cattle Island:**
 - It is a small island in the **Hirakud reservoir**.
 - It is inhabited by a **large herd of wild cattle**, which are believed to be the **descendants of cattle** that were left behind by villagers when the dam was **constructed** in the 1950s.



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WHAT IS VERY SHORT-RANGE AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM (VSHORADS)?



VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) developed for neutralising low-altitude aerial threats at short ranges.

- It has been indigenously designed and developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad, in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and industry partners.
 - The design of the missile, including the launcher, has been highly optimized to ensure easy portability, and it doesn't require a lot of personnel to operate.
 - The VSHORADS missile incorporates many novel technologies, such as the miniaturised Reaction Control System (RCS) and integrated avionics.
 - It is propelled by a dual-thrust solid motor.
 - It has a range of up to 6 km.
 - The missile system, being man-portable and specifically optimised for lightweight compared to other missile systems, can be deployed quickly in the mountains close to the Line of Actual Control, with China in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh.
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