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INDIA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY PUSH: 500 GW TARGET AND THE CASE FOR ENERGY SECURITY

PM Modi, speaking at the inaugural session of the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, highlighted how India's clean energy investments over the past decade helped the country cushion the economic blow of the ongoing West Asia (Iran) crisis — directly linking energy security to economic security.

- PM Modi framed India's clean energy story as one of "**promises, passion and performance**."
- Paris Agreement pledge: India had committed to meeting 50% of its installed power capacity from non-fossil sources — and achieved this in 2025, five years ahead of schedule.
- **Current Status**: India has 308 GW of installed non-fossil capacity, representing **55.1%** of its total power generation capacity of 558.89 GW (as per Central Electricity Authority data).
- **Global Standing**: India now ranks among the top three countries worldwide in solar and renewable energy.
- **New Target:** 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 — PM Modi acknowledged this is "somewhat difficult" but expressed confidence: "We will do it!"

Beyond Solar and Wind: Green Hydrogen and Clean Cooking

- **National Green Hydrogen Mission**: India is working in "mission mode" to produce 50 lakh tonnes (5 million tonnes) of green hydrogen by the decade's end.
- **Transport Sector Integration**: India recently launched its first green hydrogen train.
- **Clean Cooking Movement**: PM Modi pitched for reducing dependence on imported cooking gas, urging startups and innovators to develop solutions enabling households to use rooftop solar power for cooking.
- He also advocated wider electric vehicle adoption, with households charging EVs using solar power generated on their own rooftops.

Empowering Citizens: From "Annadata" to "Urjadata"

- PM Modi referenced flagship schemes: PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and PM-KUSUM, aimed at making solar power part of citizens' everyday lives.
- He called on farmers to go beyond using solar pumps and become energy producers themselves — by installing solar panels on vacant farmland and along field boundaries.
- **Key Phrase**: "Annadata should become Urjadata" (the food-provider should become the energy-provider) — positioning farmers as active participants in India's clean energy transition, not just beneficiaries.

PRADHAN MANTRI JEEVAN JYOTI BIMA YOJANA



- It is a **flagship life insurance scheme** launched by the **Government of India** to provide affordable life insurance coverage to the economically weaker sections of society.
- It was **launched in May 2015 under the Ministry of Finance.**
- It aims to **increase access to life insurance across** the country. It offers a one-year life insurance policy, renewable every year.

Features of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana:

- **Life Cover:** Under PMJJBY, a life **insurance cover of ₹2 lakh** is provided in case of death of the insured due to **any reason, natural or accidental.**
- **Premium Amount:** ₹436 per annum (auto-debited from bank account).
- **Eligibility:** Indian citizens aged between 18 and 50 years.
- **Renewal:** Annual renewal up to the age of 55 years.
- **Risk Coverage:** Covers death due to both natural and accidental causes.
- **Implementing Agencies:** Public and private sector life insurance companies in tie-up with banks.

WHY SATELLITE COLLARS COULDN'T SAVE KUNO'S CHEETAH: UNDERSTANDING THE TRACKING GAP

Following the death of 19-month-old cheetah KNG22 — found with five firearm pellets in his body — Kuno National Park Director issued a detailed explanation clarifying a key misconception: satellite collars do not provide continuous, live tracking of cheetahs.

- KNG22 — offspring of Nirva, a six-year-old female South African cheetah under Project Cheetah — was found seriously injured in the Sheopur Territorial Forest Division, near the Morena district border, on October 25, 2026.
- He was rescued and taken to Kuno for initial examination, then shifted to Nanaji Deshmukh Veterinary Science University, Jabalpur, for advanced treatment.
- **Diagnostic Findings**
    - X-ray: Revealed multiple foreign bodies at different locations in his body.
    - CT scan: Showed damage to internal organs, musculoskeletal system, and nervous system.
    - Emergency surgery: Recovered five firearm pellets — but the cheetah could not be saved, dying on October 27.
- The state government has formed a Special Task Force (forest and police officers) to investigate, and suspended six forest department officials in connection with the case.

How Kuno's Monitoring System Actually Works?

- Kuno tracks around 15 cheetahs using a combination of satellite collars and VHF (radio) receivers:
    - **Satellite Collars**: Provide location data over large, often inaccessible areas.
    - **VHF Equipment**: Used by field teams to locate animals more precisely on the ground once in range.
- **Transmission Frequency**: Collars are programmed to send location updates every 6 hours — a deliberate balance between data frequency and battery life.
- If a transmission is missed:

- One missed update → gap extends to 12 hours.
- Another missed update → gap extends to 18 hours.

- **Cost Factor**: Satellite collars cost around ₹4-5 lakh each, with transmission frequency calibrated against monitoring needs, battery life, and expected collar lifespan.

Why Signal Loss Is Common, Not Exceptional?

- Temporary signal loss is a routine occurrence, caused by:
  - Dense forest canopy interfering with GPS accuracy.
  - Rocky terrain, caves, and deep valleys obstructing satellite visibility.
  - Poor satellite geometry or temporary interference affecting location acquisition.
  - An animal resting under dense vegetation, near water, or in areas with poor satellite reception.

Why Kuno's Terrain Makes This Especially Challenging?

- Cheetahs are highly mobile, averaging 6-8 km of movement per day — sometimes covering 12-15 km or more, mostly during early morning and late evening.
- By the time a team reaches the last reported satellite location, the animal may have moved far beyond VHF radio range.
- If the scheduled satellite transmission is also missed, teams have no option but to wait for the next successful fix.
- **Practical Ground Challenges**:
  - Following a cheetah on foot is extremely difficult.
  - Vehicles cannot move in straight lines through forests like animals do — the actual distance covered can be several times the straight-line distance between two points.
  - Moving on foot through dense forest in poor light carries its own risks.
- Keeping an animal within visual or radio-tracking range throughout the day is an extremely demanding task — requiring continuous coordination, patience, technical understanding, and tremendous physical effort.
- These challenges are part of daily monitoring, not occasional exceptions.

JAN VISHWAS 2.0 - BUILDING TRUST-BASED REGULATION FOR HIGH-WAGE JOB CREATION

- India's remarkable achievement in mass democracy has not translated into mass prosperity.
- The **regulatory cholesterol**—the lack of transparency, consistency and trust in law enforcement—prevents entrepreneurs from combining land, labour and capital to generate productive, innovative and high-wage jobs.
- Following the decriminalisation of thousands of offences under the Jan Vishwas initiative, India must undertake three further reforms -
    - **Siddhant** (principles of trust),
    - **Sangreh** (a single source of legislative truth) and
    - **Ashwasan** (certainty of enforceable obligations).

The Economic Imperative - From Employment to High-Wage Jobs:

- **The challenge of mass prosperity:**
    - India ranks **128th** globally in per-capita GDP, despite its remarkable democratic achievements.
    - The problem is not the absolute scarcity of land, labour or capital, but their inefficient utilisation.
    - Nearly one-third of India's workforce remains trapped in **employed poverty.**
    - India's equity and debt-to-GDP ratios are broadly comparable to sustainable global benchmarks.
    - The central challenge is not merely creating jobs, but creating productive employment that pays higher wages.
- **The India-China economic divergence:**
    - China's per-capita GDP is approximately five times India's, despite the two economies being comparable in 1991.

Cross And Climb

- The difference is not necessarily attributable to superior intelligence or work ethic, but to the **institutional environment** that enables enterprises to grow, innovate and compete globally.

Way Forward - Reconciliation of Liberty and the Rule of Law:

- Both (Adam Smith's The Wealth of Nations and the Indian Constitution) advance the idea that democratic governments should expand human freedom rather than unnecessarily constrain it.
  - Adam Smith emphasised **liberty**, competition and the rule of law as foundations of enterprise and prosperity.
  - The Constitution derives legitimate governmental authority from the **consent** of the governed.
- The **three interventions** of Jan Vishwas reconcile these traditions by making regulation transparent, proportionate and predictable.

Conclusion:

- Together, these reforms can promote formalisation, improve labour productivity, encourage investment and create high-wage employment.
- By replacing regulatory discretion with transparent and predictable governance, India can convert its democratic strength into mass prosperity.

ASIA-PACIFIC BROADCASTING UNION



- It is a **not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation** established **in 1964.**
- It is dedicated to advancing broadcasting and media cooperation across the Asia-Pacific.
- It serves as a central platform where members share content, exchange ideas, and collectively navigate the challenges shaping the future of media.
- **Headquarter:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- **Governance of Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union:**

- **General Assembly:**

- It is the supreme body of the ABU and, subject to the provisions of the Statutes, has all the powers necessary to achieve the objectives of the ABU.
- It comprises all the **Full, Additional Full, and Associate members** of the Union.

- **Administrative Council:**
  - The ABU's "board of directors" is called the Administrative Council.
  - It consists of **18 of its Full and Additional Full members,** who are elected by the members at the annual General Assembly for a **three-year term.**
  - The council **meets twice-yearly** to decide on policy matters, review the Union's finances and consider current issues facing the Union.

EXERCISE TIGER TRIUMPH 2026



- It is an **India-U.S. tri-service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise**.
- It is aimed at **strengthening defence cooperation**, enhancing operational interoperability and improving their ability to **respond jointly** to **regional crises and natural disasters.**
- The exercise reflects the deepening convergence of India–US strategic maritime interests and the growing defence partnership between the two nations.
- **Participating Units from India:**
  - From the Indian side include specialists from all domains of maritime operations from the **Indian Navy, ground forces from the Indian Army** and representatives from various units of the Indian Air Force, as well as Special Forces personnel from all three Services.
  - A **team from the NDRF** will also participate for the first time in the 5th edition of Tiger Triumph 2026.

WHAT IS PROJECT 28A?



- It is the **Indian Navy's Next Generation Corvettes (NGCs) programme.**
- Under the contracts, **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata,** will **construct five corvettes,** while **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** will construct the **remaining three.**
- It is the **first project** in which the **ships** will be **indigenously designed by** the **Indian Navy** and **constructed by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) selected through** a **competitive process.**
- A **corvette** in the Indian Navy is a **small**, **fast, and heavily armed warship** ranked **just below a frigate in size.**
- NGCs are designed for **multi-role operations,** including offensive **Ship-to-Ship or Ship-to-Surface Missile Attacks,** Anti-Missile Defences, **Anti-Submarine Warfare** Operations, **Escort Duties**, Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) including Visit Board Search and Seizure, and Local Naval Defence.
- The Indian Navy currently operates 18 to 24 corvettes in active service.

Features of NGCs:

- The platforms will have a highly **sophisticated propulsion architecture** of a **Combined Diesel and Gas turbine with a Cross-Connect gearbox (CODAG-CC),** driving two Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPP).
- Their maximum speed will be 26 knots.
- The warships will be fitted with advanced weapons and navigation suites.
  - The proposed systems include **Medium Range Anti-Ship Missiles**, **Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (MRSAM)** and **torpedo tubes.**
- The NGCs will also **carry helicopters.**

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ASIATIC BLACK BEAR



- It is a medium-sized bear **species native to Asia**.
- It is unique among bears in that it is **largely adapted to an arboreal lifestyle.**
- **Appearance:** Its fur is black **with a "V" shape of light beige** to white on its chest, a small beige to white crescent on its throat, and a small white spot on its chin.
- **Habitat:** The species prefers heavily **forested broadleaved and coniferous forest** as as habitat. It uses orchards, agricultural fields and human habitation to move between forest patches.
- **Distribution:** It is found in **Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India,** Iran, Japan and South Korea
    - They are **found across Himalayan ranges** from eastern to western side at an altitude between **2,600-ft and 11,400-ft above sea level.**

Diet: They are **omnivores** that normally feed on berries, cherries, acorns, insects, squirrels and frogs, and typically hibernate from late Nov to March.

They are **excellent climbers and swimmers,** often seen foraging on fruit trees or near rivers.

Threats: It is threatened by **deforestation and poaching** for its body parts, which are used in traditional medicine.

Conservation status:

- **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
- **CITES:** Appendix I.

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