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1. Govt extends rooftop solar scheme till March 2026 (Dec. 9, 2022)

Govt extends rooftop solar scheme till March 2026

The government on 8 December said the **rooftop solar programme** has been extended till **March 31, 2026**, and therefore, subsidy under the programme will be available until the target for the scheme is achieved.

Important facts

- The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** has advised that all residential consumers should not pay extra amount to any company for applying on the **National Portal**, nor should they pay more than the amount fixed by the concerned distribution company for metre and testing.
- The ministry said that any vendor, agency or individual demanding additional charges should be informed about the same through email.
- Consumers wishing to install solar panels on the roof of their houses can apply through the National Portal.
- Under this program, the central government gives a **subsidy of Rs 14,588 per kilowatt** to a person who installs solar panels on the roof of his house.

About Rooftop Solar Scheme

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing the **Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Scheme (Phase II)** to generate solar power by installing solar panels on the roof of houses.
- Phase II aims to achieve a cumulative capacity of **40,000 MW** from Rooftop Solar Projects by the **year 2022**.
- The objective of the programme is to promote the **grid-connected SPV rooftop** and small **SPV power generating plants** among the residential, community, institutional, industrial and commercial establishments.
- To ease the implementation of the scheme, a **National Portal** was developed, which was launched by **PM Modi on 30 July 2022**.
- The central government has set a target of **450 GW of renewable energy generation by 2030**.
- Under this, many schemes are also going on, in which a target has been set to provide more than 17 lakh solar pumps to farmers in the country through **Pradhan Mantri-Kusum Yojana**.

2. DCGI allows the export of SII made Ebola vaccine for export to Uganda (Dec. 8, 2022)

DCGI allows the export of SII made Ebola vaccine for export to Uganda

The [Drugs Controller General of India \(DGCI\)](#) on 8 December 2022 approved the export of India's first Ebola vaccine manufactured by **Serum Institute of India (SII)** to **Uganda**.

The vaccine has been developed by SII in collaboration with **Oxford University**, United Kingdom. This vaccine will be used for solidarity clinical trials in Uganda.

The [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) has sought collaboration with manufacturers of Ebola vaccines for the prevention of the disease and has selected ChAdOx1 biEBOV as a potential vaccine for participation in a solidarity clinical trial in Uganda.

Oxford University signed an agreement with Serum Institute of India to manufacture ChAdOx1 biEBOV.

Serum Institute of India situated in Pune is the largest vaccine manufacturer in the world. SII makes vaccines for Covid-19, diphtheria, BCG, measles, rubella and others.

CEO of SII: **Adar Poonawala**

Ebola Virus

It was first reported in 1972 in South Sudan and in a village near **Ebola River in Democratic Republic of Congo**. Hence it is called the Ebola virus.

The virus can spread through direct contact with an infected animal (bat or nonhuman primate) or a sick or dead person infected with Ebola virus.

3. Nirmala Sitharaman among 6 Indians on Forbes list of world's most powerful women (Dec. 8, 2022)

Nirmala Sitharaman among 6 Indians on Forbes list of world's most powerful women

Forbes on December 7 released its annual list of the **100 Most Powerful Women** in the World, 2022, in which **six women from India** feature.

Important facts

- It includes Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** along with Biocon Executive Chairperson **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, HCL Tech Chairperson **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** and Nykaa CEO **Falguni Nair** along with two more names.
- The Finance Minister of India has been included in this list for the fifth time in a row.
- This list also includes 39 CEOs and 10 heads of state, apart from this it includes 11 billionaires, whose total assets are \$ 115 billion.
- The list was determined by four main metrics: **money, media, impact and spheres of influence**.

Name of six Indians

1. Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitaraman** - ranked 36, is on the list for the fourth time in a row.
2. **Roshini Nadar Malhotra**, Chairperson of HCLTech - ranked 53rd.
3. **Madhabi Puri Buch**, Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) -ranked 54th.
4. **Soma Mondal**, Chairperson of the Steel Authority of India - ranked 67.
5. **Mazumdar-Shaw**, executive chairperson and founder of Biocon Limited and Biocon Biologics Limited - ranked 72.
6. **Falguni Sanjay Nayar**, the founder and CEO of the beauty and lifestyle retail company Nykaa - ranked 89th.

Top 3 women in the world in Forbes list

1. The list was topped by European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen**, who played a key role in handling COVID -19 crisis, the Russia-Ukraine war, etc.
2. European Central Bank President **Christine Lagarde** stood at second position on the list.
3. US Vice President **Kamala Harris** ranked third on the list.

Iran's Zina "**Mahsa**" **Amini** was posthumously ranked **100th on the influential list**. His death in September sparked one of Iran's worst public protests.

4. U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity, COP 15 commences in Montreal, Canada (Dec. 8, 2022)

U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, known as Conference of Parties (COP-15) commenced in **Montreal, Canada** on 7 December 2022. The two weeklong conference (7-19 December 2022) was originally scheduled to be held in Kunming, China in October but was shifted to Montreal, Canada due to covid situation in China.

This is the second part of the COP15. The first part was hosted by China on 18 August 2021 virtually and the second part was to be held in a face to face conference but it has been shifted from China to Canada. However the **host of the COP15 in Montreal is still China.**

The Conference focuses on saving the nature

The Biological diversity conference focuses on nature. It is different from the [UNFCCC](#) (United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change) organised Conference of Parties(CoP) which focuses on the problem of global warming and climate change due to emission of greenhouse gasses.

The Biological Diversity conference will focus on nature and how to stop and reverse the degradation of our nature by 2030.

Main issues that will be discussed at the Montreal conference are;

- One of the most notable draft targets is to conserve 30% of land and sea areas globally by 2030.
- It will aim to adopt a global framework for biodiversity to halt and reverse losses of the world's plants, animals, and ecosystems.
- Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of natural genetics resources.

United Nation Convention on Biological Diversity

It is a multilateral treaty which was signed by the countries at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. It came into force on 29 December 1993. At present **194 countries are its signatories.**

It has 3 main objectives:

- The conservation of Biological diversity
- The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity
- The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

Conferences of the Parties/COP

- Countries which have signed the conventions are called Conferences of the Parties. The meeting of the Conferences of the Parties is also called COP
- The first COP -1 was held in **Nassau, Bahamas** 1994.
- The 14th meeting was held in **Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt** (17-19 November 2018)
- It is held after every **two years** but due to covid it was held in 2021.

5. Indiana sues social media app 'TikTok' over data security, inappropriate content (Dec. 8, 2022)

Indiana sues social media app 'TikTok' over data security, inappropriate content

Indiana's attorney general on 7 December sued Chinese-owned social media **app TikTok**, claiming it misled its users, particularly children, about the level of inappropriate content and security of consumer information.

Important facts

- Indiana's attorney general **Todd Rokita** has accused TikTok's parent company **ByteDance** of violating the state's consumer protections laws.
- Indiana is a US state in the Midwestern United States.
- **Two lawsuits** have been filed in the US on Tiktok. **The first** lawsuit claimed the app provided inappropriate content to young users.

- **The second** complaint alleges that TikTok does not disclose the Chinese government's ability to access sensitive consumer information.
- The announcement of the lawsuits comes after other US states drafted legislation to ban TikTok.
- Meanwhile, Texas, South Dakota and South Carolina have banned the use of TikTok from being used on state government equipment.

About TikTok

- This is owned by **ByteDance**, a **Chinese company** that moved its headquarters to **Singapore** in 2020.
- The app has been targeted by Republicans who say the Chinese government could access its user data like browsing history and location.
- US armed forces also have prohibited the app on military devices.
- Tiktok has been banned in **India** too in 2021.

6. Dina Boluarte assumes office as first female President of Peru (Dec. 8, 2022)

Dina Boluarte assumes office as first female President of Peru

Peru's President **Pedro Castillo** has been **impeached**. In his place, Vice President **Dina Boluarte** has been sworn in as President on 7 December. Dina is **the first female President** of the country. She will hold the post till 2026.

Important facts

- In the 130-member parliament, 101 voted in favor of the motion, while only 6 voted in support of the president. 10 MPs abstained from voting.
- **Francisco Morales**, head of Peru's constitutional court, ordered Vice President Dina Boluarte to assume the presidency in a speech before parliament voted on an impeachment motion.
- Police have taken **Pedro Castillo** into custody in the capital Lima.
- Pedro Castillo was elected as the President of Peru in **July 2021**.
- While in office, he faced an investigation over allegations of corruption.

About Peru

- President - **Dina Boluarte**

- Capital - **Lima**
- Currency - **sole**

7. Govt cancelled over 6600 FCRA License of various NGOs across country (Dec. 8, 2022)

Govt cancelled over 6600 FCRA License of various NGOs across country

The government has cancelled over **six thousand six hundred Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) licences** of various **NGOs** across the country during 2017 to 2021.

Important facts

- In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs **Nityanand Rai** informed this on 7 December.
- Maximum FCRA licences have been cancelled in **Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra** with more than seven hundred.
- Whereas, more than six hundred licences have been cancelled in **Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal**. The list also includes the **Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust**.
- These NGOs were violating the various provisions of the **FCRA Act**.
- NGOs whose FCRA registration has been cancelled under FCRA shall not be eligible for registration or grant of prior permission for a period of three years from the date of cancellation of registration.

What is FCRA?

- The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 2010 regulates the receipts of foreign contribution foreign contribution received by certain Individuals, companies, Political Parties, association or NGO resident in India .
- The government can ban receipt of foreign contributions if it feels that it harms the national interest.
- It can also cancel the license of the Associations, NGO if they do not follow the procedure mentioned in the law.
- The law is administered by the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs**.

8. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurates FAI Annual Seminar at New Delhi (Dec. 8, 2022)

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurates FAI Annual Seminar

Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, and Health and Family Welfare, **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya** inaugurated **Fertiliser Association of India (FAI) Annual Seminar 2022** (Fertilizer Sector by 2030) at **New Delhi** on 7 December.

Important facts

- **Arun Singhal**, Secretary Department of Fertilizers, **Arvind Chaudhary**, DG FAI, **KS Raju**, Chairman FAI and representatives of Industries and other senior officials of the Ministry were also present on the occasion.
- Dr Mansukh Mandaviya stated that one of the important components for ensuring food security is fertilizers.
- There has been a huge increase in the prices of fertilizers and raw materials during the last three years.
- The government has made various reforms and has ensured that fertilizers are made available to Indian farmers at affordable prices.
- The Government has increased the amount of fertilizer subsidy from **US dollars 10 Billion for the pre-pandemic year 2019-20 to almost US dollars 27 Billion** in the current year.
- Government has signed various **MoUs** between Indian fertilizer companies and foreign suppliers to ensure stability in fertilizer supply to farmers.
- On this occasion, the Union Minister also released three **FAI publications and FAI Data portal**.
- This portal will create a uniform database and avoid manual input of data by FAI.

Theme of FAI Annual Seminar

- Seminar is devoted to the theme '**Fertilizer Sector by 2030**'.
- In the seminar there will be a presentation on technologies for green fertilizers, worldwide developments in sustainability area, sustainable agriculture, green financing and optimising cost of logistics.

About Fertiliser Association of India

- It is a non-profit and non-trading company representing mainly the fertiliser manufacturers, distributors, importers, equipment manufacturers, research institutes and suppliers of inputs.
- The Association was established in **1955 with the objective** of bringing together all concerned with the production, marketing and use of fertilisers.

9. TRAI decides no charges for SMS and Cell Broadcast Alerts during disasters (Dec. 7, 2022)

TRAI decides no charges for SMS and Cell Broadcast Alerts during disasters

The Telecom sector regulator TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) in an order issued on 7 December 2022 has decided that **no charges** will be levied on SMS/message broadcasted through Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) during the time of disasters. CAP is a platform that enables an SMS or a cell broadcast to be targeted at a particular region or area.

The TRAI order came after the Department of Telecom, under the Union Ministry of Communications requested TRAI to suggest a charge for the SMS broadcasted through the CAP during both at the times of disaster and non-disaster.

TRAI said that considering the significance of alerts or messages sent as per direction issued under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the authority has decided that no charges will be levied for such SMS/cell broadcast alerts or messages.

According to TRAI order, the SMS or cell broadcast sent during the disaster or non-disaster situation without any direction issued under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, will carry a charge of 2 paise per SMS.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India was set up by the Government of India in 1997 under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

It was set up to regulate telecom services, including fixation/revision of tariffs for telecom services which were earlier vested in the Central Government.

Headquarters: **New Delhi**

Current Chairman: **Ram Sewak Sharma**

10. Volodymyr Zelensky and “Spirit of Ukraine” is the is Time Magazine's 2022 Person of the Year (Dec. 7, 2022)

Volodymyr Zelensky and “Spirit of Ukraine”

The prestigious American magazine ‘Time’ has named Ukrainian president **Volodymyr Zelensky** and "**the spirit of Ukraine**" as its 2022 Person of the Year.

The Time person of the year award goes to an event or person deemed to have had the most influence on global events over the past 12 months. **In 2021 Elon Musk was the Time person of the Year.**

The Time magazine editor Edward Felsenthal wrote that "spirit of Ukraine" referred to Ukrainians around the world, including many who "fought behind the scenes" against the Russian invasion.

The magazine said Mr Zelensky had inspired Ukrainians and was recognised internationally for his courage in resisting the Russian invasion.

Time Heroes of the Year

Women in Iran were named the Time Heroes of the Year. Iranian women who are protesting for over three months against the custodial death of 22-year-old **Mahsa Amini**. She was arrested for not wearing hijab publicly and she died while in the custody of the Iranian morality police. Her death has triggered a mass protest from the Iranian women against public wearing of Hijab and the morality police.

Other Awards

The South Korean **K-pop band Blackpink** were recognised as **Time's Entertainer of the year**.

American baseball player Aaron **Judge** has been recognised as the Athlete of the Year and Malaysian actress **Michelle Yeoh** is the Icon of the Year.

Indian to be named the Time person of the Year

Mahatma Gandhi is the only Indian to be named TIME Person of the Year, having been given the honour in 1930. The magazine described him as 'Saint Gandhi' and later named him as one of the 25 Political Icons of all time.

The tradition of naming Time person of the **year started in 1927**. Initially it was named the Time Man of the Year. Other past winners have included the former dictator of Germany, **Adolf Hitler in 1938**, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was 2007's Person of the Year.