



14.09.2021 Tuesday



<http://www.sriramsias.com>

Current Affairs of the Day

India, U.S. to tie up on green energy

1. The United States is to collaborate with India to work towards installing 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030. Currently, India's installed power capacity is projected to be 476 GW by 2021-22 and is expected to rise to at least 817 GW by 2030.
2. Countries launched the Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD). It would be based on three pillars. One would be a "climate action pillar" which would have joint proposals looking at ways in which emissions could be reduced in the next decade.
3. The second pillar would be setting out a roadmap to achieving the 450GW in transportation, buildings and industry. The final pillar, or the "Finance Pillar" would involve collaborating on attracting finance to deploy 450 GW of renewable energy and demonstrate at scale clean energy technologies.

India, U.S. to tie up on green energy

U.S. climate envoy in Delhi, will help with funds & tech

By Ananda Dasgupta

The United States is to collaborate with India to work towards installing 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030. "We look forward to partnering with India to bring green finance, technology and other elements needed to achieve it," said John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, on Monday. Currently, India's installed power capacity is projected to be 476 GW by 2021-22, and is expected to rise to at least 817 GW by 2030.

Mr. Kerry is on an official visit to India from September 13th, and is meeting Ministers and Undersecretaries to

Mr. Kerry was speaking at a public function following a meeting with Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Patel at the behest of the Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD). This was one of the main tracks of the U.S.-India Agenda 2021 Framework, which President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced at the Leaders Summit on Climate in April 2021. Mr. Kerry said that the dialogue would serve as a "pivotal moment" for U.S.-India collaboration, and would be based on three pillars.

SC to pass interim orders in Pegasus case

- The Supreme Court decided to pass interim orders after the government refused to respond, through a "detailed" affidavit, to allegations that it used Israeli-based Pegasus software to spy on citizens.
- The government said such an affidavit in the top court would be too public and compromise national security.

SC to pass interim orders in Pegasus case

Govt. refuses to file 'detailed' affidavit on spying charges

KIRISHANAN RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday decided to pass interim orders after the government refused to respond, through a "detailed" affidavit, to allegations that it used Israeli-based Pegasus software to spy on citizens.

The government said such an affidavit in the top court would be too public and compromise national security.

The petitioners demanded that either the Cabinet Secretary be recalled or the court should issue a writ of habeas corpus, but by asking judges to probe the sweeping controversy.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana and Justice Surya Kant and Hemant Kant said there cannot be any "looming around the bush" on the issue.

The CJI said the court had given the government a last opportunity to file a detailed affidavit in order to get a clear idea of its stand in the Pegasus case. "We thought the government would file a sworn affidavit... Now we will pass our interim orders," he said.

However, after reserving orders, the court told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the government, that he must mention the cases if there were any second thoughts in the next few days before the pronouncement of the order.

Chief Justice said Solicitor General Kant had agreed to file a sworn affidavit, but the government's refusal to do a detailed affidavit was "unacceptable".

Mr. Mehta requested that a public discussion on whether a particular affidavit was filed or not would also be required. He urged the court to allow the government to have a committee of "subject matter experts" who would look into the allegations of

attempted cyberattacks against citizens, including journalists, activists, trade unionists, and parliamentarians, among others. He stated that the committee members would have a "good relationship" with the government, and would work in their report before the Supreme Court.

"The committee report will have to establish that individual's plan of violation of their privacy is necessary," he said.



14.09.2021 Tuesday



<http://www.sriramsias.com>

Spyware and Stalkerware: Pegasus a Zero Click Trap



EXPRESS explained.

WHAT IS PEGASUS?

Built and marketed by Israeli company NSO, Pegasus is a spyware that infects devices and spies on the victim by transferring data to a master server in an unauthorised manner. The company claims to sell it only to "vetted foreign governments" worldwide

#QUIZPLAINED

EXPRESS explained. **HOW DOES IT WORK?**

- Pegasus, in the very basic form, can infect devices that are connected to the Internet. Some updated versions, experts claim, can also infect phones even without the victim clicking on any links or messages



#QUIZPLAINED

EXPRESS explained. **HOW DOES IT INFECT A DEVICE?**

- For spyware apps, the easiest method is to disguise the spying code inside the unauthorised versions of premium apps. On the other hand, stalkerware apps seek explicit permissions at the time of their installation

- Such stalkerware applications, once installed, hide themselves in the background, from where they continue functioning. Similarly, Pegasus infects phones and computers of victims either through vulnerabilities in most commonly used apps such as WhatsApp, iMessage, or SMS. The software tries to gain "root privileges" so that they can become device administrators



#QUIZPLAINED



WHAT HAPPENS AFTERWARDS?

The software can, based on instructions from a remote server, automatically turn on the camera and the microphone and look into chats, contacts and data backup. It can also record speech, access the calendar and read SMS-es and emails. The spyware software can continue sending signals to the controlling server till the time it is detected

#QUIZPLAINED

TEXT: AASHISH ARYAN; ILLUSTRATION: SUVAJIT DEY

4



Climate change could cause 216 mn to migrate: World Bank

1. Climate change could push more than 200 million people to leave their homes in the next three decades and create migration hot spots unless urgent action is taken to reduce global emissions and bridge the development gap, a World Bank report has found.
2. The second part of the Groundswell report examined how the impacts of slow-onset climate change, such as water scarcity, decreasing crop productivity and rising sea levels, could lead to millions of what it describes as "climate migrants" by 2050 under three different scenarios with varying degrees of climate action and development.

Most vulnerable region

1. In the worst-case scenario, Sub-Saharan Africa — the most vulnerable region due to desertification, fragile coastlines and the population's dependence on agriculture — would see the most migrants, with up to 86 million people moving within national borders.
2. North Africa, however, is predicted to have the largest proportion of climate migrants, with 19 million people moving, equivalent to roughly 9% of its population, due mainly to increased water scarcity in northeastern Tunisia, northwestern Algeria, western and southern Morocco, and the central Atlas foothills, the report said.
3. In South Asia, Bangladesh is particularly affected by flooding and crop failures, accounting for almost half of the predicted climate migrants, with 19.9 million people, including an increasing number of women, moving by 2050 under the pessimistic scenario.

Climate change could cause 216 mn to migrate: World Bank

In most optimistic scenario, 44 mn would still be displaced


ASSOCIATED PRESS
BARCELONA

Climate change could push more than 200 million people to leave their homes in the next three decades and create migration hot spots unless urgent action is taken to reduce global emissions and bridge the development gap, a World Bank report has found.

The second part of the Groundswell report published on Monday examined how the impacts of slow-onset climate change, such as water scarcity, decreasing crop productivity and rising sea levels, could lead to millions of what it describes as "climate migrants" by 2050 under three different scenarios with varying degrees of climate action and development.

Under the most pessimistic scenario, with a high level of emissions and unequal development, the report forecasts up to 216 million people moving within their own countries across the six regions analysed. Those regions are Latin America; North Africa; Sub-Saharan Africa; Eastern Europe and Central Asia; South Asia; and East Asia and the Pacific. In the most climate-friendly scenario, with a low level of emissions and inclusive, sustainable development, the world could still see 44 million people being forced to leave their homes.



Alarming situation: A flood-affected family on a boat in Morigaon district of Assam, in this file photo. 

The findings "reaffirm the potency of climate to induce migration within countries," said Viviane Wei Chen Clement, a senior climate change specialist at the World Bank and one of the report's authors.

Most vulnerable region

In the worst-case scenario, Sub-Saharan Africa — the most vulnerable region due to desertification, fragile coastlines and the population's dependence on agriculture — would see the most migrants, with up to 86 million people moving within national borders.

North Africa, however, is predicted to have the largest proportion of climate migrants, with 19 million people moving, equivalent to roughly 9% of its population, due mainly to increased water scarcity in northeastern Tunisia, northwestern Algeria, western and southern Morocco, and the central Atlas foothills, the report said.

In South Asia, Bangladesh is particularly affected by flooding and crop failures, accounting for almost half of the predicted climate migrants, with 19.9 million people, including an increasing number of women, moving by 2050 under the pessimistic scenario.

"This is our humanitarian reality right now and we are concerned this is going to be even worse, where vulnerability is more acute," said Prof. Maarten van Aalst, director of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, who wasn't involved with the report.

Many scientists say the world is no longer on track to the worst-case scenario for emissions. But even under a more moderate scenario, Mr. van Aalst said many impacts are occurring faster than expected. "Including the extremes we are experiencing, as well as potential implications for migration and displacement."



How to boost financial inclusion

Greater flexibility in financial products will lead to greater inclusion of nano enterprises, a burgeoning segment that is critical to the growth of our rural economy.

Nano-entrepreneurs and Financial Integration:



1. There are 63.4 million MSMEs in India, 99 per cent of which are micro-enterprises with less than Rs 10 lakh in investment. These tiny businesses are run by nano-entrepreneurs, a burgeoning segment that is absolutely critical to the growth of our rural economy.
2. If we assess our progress against the definition of “financial inclusion”, which refers to the accessibility of banking and availability of credit, we can congratulate ourselves on significant progress.
3. The journey from inclusion to integration is not only about making products available and accessible, but also about making them relevant, applicable, and acceptable.
4. The first challenge in making products broadly available is bridging the gap between the supply and demand of capital. In a financially integrated world, capital is agile. Yet owing to a limited risk appetite, low or thin-file data on customers and challenging regulatory oversight, capital remains a constraint in designing bespoke products.
5. For India to overcome these challenges, the existing infrastructure must be adapted to our new purpose, providing easy-to-use, customer-centric experiences.

Microcredit is Key:

1. Bankers and private financial institutions erroneously believe that a poor person takes a microcredit loan because she cannot save. In reality, if you go to any remote area in India and ask any woman how much she has saved in the post office, you will find huge numbers.
2. They are able to save because of village postal agents who collect their savings from their doorstep. Greater accessibility has major benefits for not only the customer but also the supplier.
3. It is also critical we recognise that the conventional method of one-size-fits-all is no longer viable. Products must be designed and delivered



THE HINDU

14.09.2021

Tuesday



<http://www.sriramsias.com>

intelligently to meet the customer where they are, and by keeping in mind that they use products to reach their goals.

4. This involves tailoring the products to the needs and income profile of the customer, including being cognizant of their environment, geography, and demography.
5. The Mann Deshi Bank in Delhi has designed and launched a cash credit product for women. Since its launch, hundreds of women vendors in the area have benefited from the product.

Making it Cheap:


1. Due to high operating costs, Financial service providers are consequently dissuaded from attempting to reach rural, financially excluded groups, and the availability of financial services, therefore, remains an urban privilege.
2. By using the power of machine learning and cloud infrastructure, we can significantly lower operating costs while offering customers affordable, bespoke financial products that help them reach their goals.
3. While the above are supply-side issues, the demand side has its own set of challenges. Financial literacy and technology readiness are two critical issues.
4. Financial education assists people in making sound financial decisions. These are not just challenges of the Indian market, but other economies too.

Despite constraints, rural women entrepreneurs follow the motto “my courage, my capital”. It is our responsibility as financial service providers to create an ecosystem for them to deploy this capital of courage.

Micro Credit Revolution in Bangladesh:

Muhhamed Yunus

“If society was structured for self-employment, there would be no reason to fear being poor.” - Dr. Muhammad Yunus



Yunus is the 1st Nobel Prize winner from Bangladesh


Founder of Grameen (Rural) Bank in 1976

Started microfinancing by giving out a loan of \$27 to 42 women in a village in Bangladesh.

World's Answer to the Poor

prakash misal

Yunus and the Grameen Bank



- 1970s: War against Pakistan, flooding, famine
- 80% of the population living in poverty
- Yunus: Economist trained in the US teaching at Chittagong University (southeast Bangladesh)
- 1976: Yunus started a series of experiments lending to poor households in nearby Jobra
- Activities financed: rice husking, bamboo weaving
- Finding: poor borrowers without collateral making profits and repaying



Practice MCQs

Q. Which of the following countries is/are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?

1. Pakistan
2. Iran
3. Turkmenistan
4. Afghanistan

Select the correct answer from the codes given below

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 2, 3 and 4
- c. 1, 3 and 4 only
- d. 1 only