

## Current Affairs of the Day

### **India needs \$10 tn. to meet net-zero**

1. To meet its goals of net-zero, or be able to effectively eliminate carbon dioxide emissions by 2070, India will need close to \$10 trillion (₹700 lakh crore), according to an analysis by climate and energy research firm, CEEW Centre for Energy Finance (CEEW-CEF). CEEW is the Council for Energy, Environment and Water Research, a think tank here.
2. Most of this money, around \$8.4 trillion, would be needed to scale up generation from renewable energy and bring together the necessary integration, distribution and transmission infrastructure.
3. Another \$1.5 trillion would have to be invested in the industrial sector for setting up green hydrogen production capacity to advance the sector's decarbonisation.
4. Green hydrogen is made from renewable energy and can be used for many things, from heating to powering batteries as well as fuelling vehicles.
5. The study estimates that India would fall short by \$3.5 trillion to achieve its net-zero target and hence, investment support of \$1.4 trillion would be required from developed economies to bridge the gap.

### **Country's goals**

1. Reaching net-zero by 2050 is earth's best chance, scientists say, to keep the globe's average temperature from exceeding 1.5 Celsius by the end of the century.
2. Last month, the CEEW in another study had computed that India's total installed solar power capacity would need to increase to 5,630 gigawatts by 2070. The usage of coal, especially for power generation, would need to peak by 2040 and drop by 99% between 2040 and 2060.
3. Further, crude oil consumption across sectors would need to peak by 2050 and fall substantially by 90% between 2050 and 2070. Green hydrogen could contribute 19% of the total energy needs of the industrial sector.

## RBI panel moots law to regulate digital lending

1. A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Working Group (WG) on digital lending, including lending through online platforms and mobile apps, has recommended separate legislation to oversee such lending as well as a nodal agency to vet the Digital Lending Apps.
2. The group 'set up in the backdrop of business conduct and customer protection concerns arising out of the spurt in digital lending activities' has also mooted a Self-Regulatory Organisation for participants in the digital lending ecosystem
3. Besides a separate law to prevent illegal digital lending activities, the group has proposed the development of certain baseline technology standards and compliance with those standards as a pre-condition for offering digital lending solutions.
4. It has also suggested that disbursement of loans be made directly into the bank accounts of borrowers and servicing of loans be done only through the bank accounts of the digital lenders.
5. All data collection must require the prior consent of borrowers and come 'with verifiable audit trails and the data itself ought to be stored locally, it mooted.

## Ethics and Society Examples

### By offering gurdwara grounds for namaz in Gurgaon, the Sikh community highlights the best in religion in a polarised climate

The decency of Gurgaon's gurdwara committee, and of people like Akshay Yadav — who offered his shop for namaz — make it clear that the "community" is not exclusivist.

1. For at least two months in Gurgaon — as in so many parts of the country — religion and worship have been used to create a wall, one that both keeps people out and hems them in.





THE HINDU  
19.11.2021 Friday



<http://www.sriramsias.com>

2. The offering of namaz, even in designated areas, was disrupted by politico-religious groups, and the local administration withdrew permission for Friday prayers citing “objections from local residents and RWAs”.
3. It is easy to forget, in such a climate of communal hostility, the ideas of service, fraternity and hospitality that are a part of religious traditions. Thankfully, five gurdwaras in Gurgaon reminded people of those sentiments by offering Muslim neighbours their grounds for namaz.

### **The tradition of service of Humanity:**

1. In virtually every recent crisis — migrant workers trudging home in 2020, during the farmers’ agitation, as people suffered during the Second Wave — the Sikh community has been at the forefront of providing relief, assistance and sustenance. Langar is served to all comers, with no questions asked about religion, caste or creed.
2. It is this openness and generosity — both spiritual and material — that is on display in Gurgaon. As Sherdil Singh Sidhu, president of the Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Sabzi Mandi, Gurgaon, put it: “A gurdwara is the house of the Guru... If the Muslim community is facing problems in praying at designated sites, they can offer prayers in the gurdwaras. The doors of gurdwaras are open to all.”
3. “Religious polarisation”, a phrase used often by political pundits, doesn’t quite capture the fraying social fabric, the sense of loss that accompanies the cynical politicisation of religion. This is made worse when administrations carry out seemingly partisan policies.
4. The decency of Gurgaon’s gurdwara committee, and of people like Akshay Yadav — who offered his shop for namaz — make it clear that the “community” is not exclusivist. On Guru Nanak’s birth anniversary, this may just be the greatest testament to his legacy.

### **Govt schools will be crucial to post-pandemic learning recovery. Centre, states must back them with resources**

While the shift to government schools might not be permanent, it is now crucial to the post-pandemic recovery of learning levels.





19.11.2021 Friday



<http://www.sriramsias.com>

## Learning deficit and the government schools:

1. There is little doubt that the shock of the Covid-19 pandemic — followed by one of the longest school closures in the world — has redrawn India's education landscape.
2. How and to what extent is revealed in the latest ASER (Annual Status of Education Report) phone survey of 75,234 children in rural India. The most significant shift is the surge of students into government schools.
3. In the last year alone, enrolment, across gender and age, has jumped from 65.8 per cent to 70.3 per cent. This reverses the trend since 2006 when private school enrolment grew steadily to settle at around 30 per cent in 2018. In the two years of the pandemic, this has fallen to 24.4 per cent.
4. The reasons are not hard to surmise: The economic shock of the pandemic has not just squeezed the incomes of families and led to a reverse exodus into rural India, it has also led to the closure of several low-cost private schools.



**Learning hit**  
Some highlights from the Annual Status of Education Report's September survey:

- 5.3% of rural children aged 6-10 years are not enrolled in school this year, in comparison to just 1.8% in 2018.
- Around 20% of rural children did not have textbooks at home by September.
- About 70% of rural children did some learning activity. Of these, only 11% had live online classes.
- Less than 36% of rural children received some learning materials or activities from the school. Almost 75% of such school interaction was via Whatsapp.

## Digital inequality:

1. The ASER 2020 report offered a snapshot of digital inequality, with the majority of students shut out of the online classroom. That divide exists.
2. Even though rural homes with smartphones have doubled since 2018 — and nearly 30 per cent of households reported buying a device to help their child's education — 26.1 per cent of children, and especially the young, still struggled to access it.
3. In any case, the experience of the pandemic has called into question the efficacy of remote learning and technological solutions to a crisis of access and inequality.
4. In the absence of schools, the report found a sharp rise in the dependence on private tuition classes. The largest increase in children taking tuition was in the most disadvantaged households — a sign of the persistent demand for good education even in straitened circumstances.

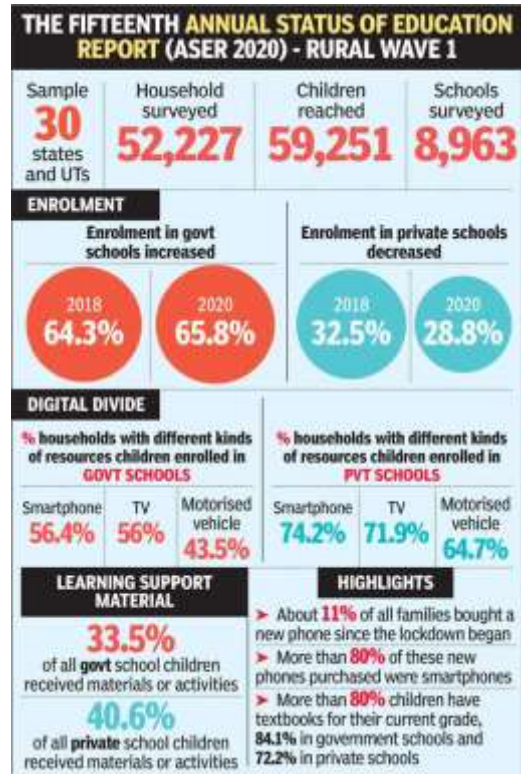


19.11.2021 Friday



<http://www.sriramsias.com>

- While the shift to government schools might not be permanent, it is now crucial to the post-pandemic recovery of learning levels. In the reopened schools surveyed, children unable to catch up with their syllabus posed the biggest challenge to teachers.
- One-third of children in Classes I and II have not yet seen the inside of a physical classroom. From designing bridge courses that can help restore children's skills and confidence, to dealing with more students, government schools have their tasks cut out.
- But let's not forget that in February this year, the Centre slashed the education budget by 6 per cent, with school education taking the biggest cut. Educationists fear that the learning loss caused by the pandemic might be inter-generational, with grave consequences for the economy and society. Government investment must match up with the challenge of educating the future.



<b>MCQ</b>	<p>Q1. Which of the following are challenges/concerns related to Digital currencies?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cyber attacks and fraud</li> <li>Money laundering and evasion of capital controls</li> <li>Energy usage</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer from the codes given below</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 only</li> <li>1 and 3 only</li> <li>2 and 3 only</li> <li>1, 2 and 3</li> </ol>
<b>MAINS DAWP</b>	<p>Q. Digital currencies are an existential threat to the financial integrity of the Global economic order. Discuss the Fiscal, Monetary and regulatory challenges posed by digital currencies in this light.</p>