



Current Affairs of the Day

PM: India eyeing a key role in the semiconductor supply chain

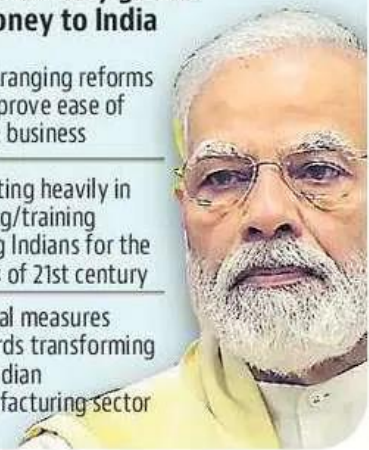
1. India is headed for a robust economy and the country's consumption of semiconductors is expected to cross \$110 billion by 2030 said PM at the inaugural session of the Semicon India-2022 conference.

2. India's own consumption of semiconductors is expected to cross \$80 billion by 2026 and \$110 billion by 2030.

Attracting investment in India

The PM on Friday listed six reasons why global investors should bring their money to India

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| 1 Building digital infra to connect over 1.3 billion Indians | 4 Wide ranging reforms to improve ease of doing business |
| 2 Paving the way to lead the next 'technology revolution' | 5 Investing heavily in skilling/training young Indians for the needs of 21st century |
| 3 Headed for robust economic growth with the world's fastest-growing startup ecosystem | 6 Several measures towards transforming the Indian manufacturing sector |



Government actions to promote the semiconductor industry:

1. The Centre's Semicon India Programme, set up to build the semiconductor and display ecosystem in the country, has generated interest among companies.
2. India approved a semiconductor policy to incentivise a domestic ecosystem for semiconductors and display manufacturing — in line with the Centres ambition to create a \$300 billion electronics industry in six years.

Potential to be an attractive investment destination for semiconductor technologies

1. We are building digital infrastructure to connect over 1.3 billion Indians and UPI is the world's most efficient payment infrastructure today.
2. Efforts are underway to try and connect 600,000 villages with broadband and also invest in developing capabilities in 5G, clean energy technologies and the internet of things (IoT).



3. India is headed for robust economic growth with the world's fastest-growing startup ecosystem.
4. India has undertaken wide-ranging reforms for improving the ease of doing business in the country. Such as the abolition of more than 25,000 compliances, a push towards auto-renewal of licenses, transparency and speed in regulatory framework via digitisation, and one of the most favourable taxation structures in the world.
5. The country is investing heavily in skilling and training young Indians for the needs of the 21st century. We have an exceptional semiconductor design talent pool which makes up to 20% of the world's semiconductor design engineers... Almost all of the top 25 semiconductor design companies have their design or Research and Development centres in our country.
6. It (semiconductor industry) is huge and so the government is willing to invest ₹70,000 crores to get this started.

'Economy may take till FY35 to overcome COVID-19 losses'

1. The Indian economy may take more than a decade to overcome the losses caused by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Report on Currency and Finance (RCF).
2. The pandemic is a watershed moment and the structural changes catalysed by the pandemic can potentially alter the growth trajectory in the medium term.
3. As per the RCF, a feasible range of medium-term steady GDP growth in India works out to 6.5%-8.5%, consistent with the blueprint of reforms and 'timely rebalancing of monetary and fiscal policies will likely be the first step in this journey.
4. The authors also said price stability was a necessary precondition for strong and sustainable growth.



What a global funder can learn from the grassroots

To support vulnerable communities to recover from the pandemic, solutions need to be designed with the participation of members of these affected groups.

War against extreme poverty disrupted:

1. Before Covid-19 erupted, poverty was declining across the world. A Brookings Institution study showed that extreme poverty, defined as those living in households spending less than \$1.90 per person per day in terms of purchasing power parity, had fallen from 1.9 billion people (1990) to 648 million (2019).
2. The pandemic, however, disrupted this trend. In India, the first wave led to the loss of millions of jobs and resulted in an increase in impoverished families.
3. The Centre for Sustainable Employment (Azim Premji University)'s The State of Working India Report, 2021, estimated that the pandemic pushed 230 million Indians below the poverty line.
4. Though the last few months witnessed an uptick in the employment rate, the total number of employed individuals is still lower than the pre-Covid-19 levels, as per data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy.

Two main reasons for vulnerability:

1. Existing inequalities in household incomes
2. Unequal access to social protection measures

Way Forward:

1. Solutions had to be designed with the participation and contribution of members of these affected groups.
2. The CSOs we supported work in close partnership with local institutions of governance such as gram panchayats and municipal wards, community leaders and government health functionaries such as Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and Auxiliary Nursing Midwifery (ANM) workers and village health committees.
3. Coupled with a strong field presence, CSOs were involved in a range of activities such as providing emergency rations and medical supplies and



promoting livelihood-generation activities such as subsistence farming, cattle rearing and micro-entrepreneurship

- They also undertook activities that led to easier access to existing government-funded social protection schemes such as helping households organise their personal identification documents to claim benefits from welfare schemes.
- In addition, CSOs such as **Jan Sahas** worked with a network of other CSOs to provide safe, secure, and sustainable internal migration of labour.
- It studied movement patterns of major migrant communities and in partnership with local CSOs across these tracks, jointly decided on a menu of offerings to migrant families, including food, shelter, medical help and other basic requirements on a running basis.

Understanding India's coal, power issues

An unrelenting heatwave and an economic recovery have led to power demand rising over 23 times from what it was last year, at a time when more than 60% of India's coal-based power plants are at critical stock levels. A look at the genesis of India's coal and power woes

How demand has shot up this year

	28-04-2021	28-04-2022
Demand met during evening peak hour (MW)	172,675	188,222
Peak shortage (MW)	450	10,778
Energy met (MU)	4,014	4,567
Hydroelectric (MU)	318	423
Wind (MU)	110	169
Solar (MU)	196	274
Energy shortage (MU)	8.93	192.11
Maximum demand met during the day (MW)	176,255	204,653
Duration of maximum demand met	12:27	14:35

Source: Daily reports from posoco.in

MU = million units; MW = megawatt

India's coal stocks

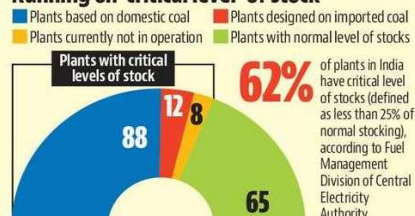
60mt Coal India Limited's last fiscal stock (as on March 31)

57mt Current stock position, as of latest data on April 24

1.9mt Current daily production output

1.64mt Daily average supplies to power sector up to April 15

Running on 'critical level' of stock



Source: Daily coal report from npp.gov.in

States hit hardest by power cuts



J&K
Total demand: 6,100 MW
Total supply: 5,000 MW
Power cuts: Urban areas—3-5 hours; Rural areas—8-10 hours

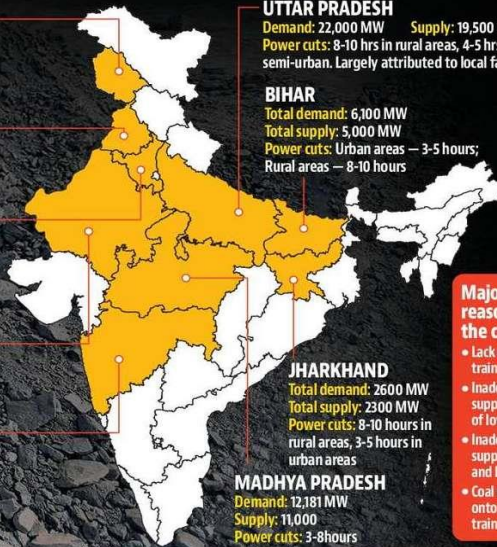
PUNJAB
Demand: 8,500 MW
Supply: 5,680 MW
Power cuts: 6-8 hours

HARYANA
Total demand: 9,047 MW
Total supply: 7,596 MW (1,563 lakh units)
Power cuts: No data available

RAJASTHAN
Demand: 13,000 MW (+200MW)
Supply: 12,000 MW
Power cuts: 2 to 6 hours

MAHARASHTRA
Total demand: 13,000 MW
Total supply: 12,000 MW
Power cuts: 2 to 6 hours

PHOTO: RAVI CHOUDHARY/HT



UTTAR PRADESH
Demand: 22,000 MW Supply: 19,500 MW
Power cuts: 8-10 hrs in rural areas, 4-5 hrs in semi-urban. Largely attributed to local faults

BIHAR
Total demand: 6,100 MW
Total supply: 5,000 MW
Power cuts: Urban areas—3-5 hours; Rural areas—8-10 hours

JHARKHAND
Total demand: 2600 MW
Total supply: 2300 MW
Power cuts: 8-10 hours in rural areas, 3-5 hours in urban areas

MADHYA PRADESH
Demand: 12,181 MW
Supply: 11,000
Power cuts: 3-8 hours

Major reasons for the crisis

- Lack of available train rakes
- Inadequate supply because of low payment
- Inadequate supply from CCL and BCLL
- Coal not loaded onto supply train adequately



MAINS DAWP

Q1. Heatwaves have enormous impacts on health, agriculture, water availability, and power. Therefore, the answer to the challenge has to be seen as a larger governance issue, with the response being multidisciplinary and inter-ministerial.

Q2. Discuss India's potential to be an attractive investment destination for semiconductor technologies. What is the government doing to harness this potential?

Q3. *Indian women's labour force participation is more likely shaped by low and declining demand for female labour rather than supply-side constraints keeping women indoors.* In this context comment on the lower demand for female labour in India.

Q4. Gender-discriminatory laws with the intent to protect female workers further reinforce stereotypical gender norms in the labour market keeping women out of it. Comment.

MCQs

Q1. Which of the following are uses of neon gas?

1. Semiconductor chip manufacturing
2. Make signs for businesses
3. To make gas lasers
4. To make Television tubes

Select the correct answer from the codes given below

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