

12 APRIL 2019

India stares at a pile of solar e- waste

In News:

India’s PV (photovoltaic) waste volume is estimated to grow to 200,000 tonnes by 2030 and around 1.8 million tonnes by 2050.

In Brief:

By 2050, India will likely stare at a pile of a new category of electronic waste, namely solar e-waste. Currently, India’s e-waste rules have no laws mandating solar cell manufacturers to recycle or dispose waste from this sector.

India is among the leading markets for solar cells in the world, buoyed by the government’s commitment to install 100 GW of solar power by 2022. So far, India has installed solar cells for about 28 GW and this is largely from imported solar PV cells.

Photovoltaics:

Solar cell modules are made by processing sand to make silicon, casting silicon ingots, using wafers to create cells and then assembling them to make modules.

India’s domestic manufacturers are largely involved in assembling cells and modules.

These modules are 80% glass and aluminium, and non-hazardous. Other materials used, including polymers, metals, metallic compounds and alloys, and are classified as potentially hazardous, says the study.

Lack of Policy:

India is poorly positioned to handle PV waste as it doesn’t yet have policy guidelines on the same a lack of a policy framework is coupled with the fact that even basic recycling facilities for laminated glass and e-waste are unavailable.

Despite the e-waste regulation being in place for over seven years, only less than 4% of estimated e-waste is recycled in the organised sector as per the latest estimates from the Central Pollution Control Board.

E- Waste in India:

- India generates around 2 million tonnes per annum (TPA) of E-waste of which 12% constituted of telecom equipment alone.
- Defunct gadgets are broken for precious metals.
- Under, E-Waste (Management & Handling) Rules 2011, EPR: Extended Producer Responsibility. Manufacturers have to set up collection centre for their product.
- **E-Waste (Management) Rules 2016:** CFL and other mercury lamp now in ambit of e-waste
- Citizen should buy product with least toxic material, recycle and reuse capable and certified by regulatory authority.
- India is the world’s fifth largest electronic waste (e-waste) producer : ASSOCHAM

E-Waste Management in India

- ❑ Managing E-waste - both locally generated and internationally imported, are the major challenges for the government
- ❑ India annually generates over 4.4 Lakh tonnes of e-waste
- ❑ Indian metros are generating around 8,000 tonnes of e-waste every year.
- ❑ A 2005 survey predicted e-waste production to rise from 1.46 Lakh tonnes per annum to 8 Lakh tonnes by 2012.
- ❑ Whereas India has a capacity to treat only 2.4 Lakh tones



Note



- In India, e waste accounts for 4% of global e-waste
- A recent ASSOCHAM-NEC study on “Electricals & Electronics Manufacturing in India” has revealed that India recycles only 5% of its e-waste and the country is one of the biggest contributors of e-waste in the world.

EU extends Brexit deadline to Oct 31, asks Britain to find solution on deal

In News:

Britain won't be leaving the EU on April 12, after Britain and the EU agreed to an extension till the end of October — with the option of Britain leaving earlier if a deal were agreed to in Parliament before then. The period is longer than the extension till June 30 that Prime Minister Theresa May had sought but is shorter than some of the possible dates that had been considered — including a possible delay of a year.

In Brief:

- 1. Leaders made clear that the onus was very much on Britain to find a solution and deliver within this period.
- 2. It followed a lengthy meeting of the leaders of the remaining 27 EU nations, which took place after May made a presentation in which she urged them to provide Britain with more time, highlighting the ongoing talks between the government and the opposition Labour party in an effort to find a road forward that can command a majority in the House of Commons.
- Welcomes decision
- 1. May welcomed the extension and in particular the European Council's acceptance that the extension should be flexible — enabling Britain to leave the EU on June 1 and avoid taking place in European Parliamentary elections on May 23, should an agreement be reached before May 22.
- 2. The date represents a compromise solution thrashed out by EU leaders — between the shorter extension sought by an increasingly frustrated French President Emmanuel Macron and a pragmatic German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who had sought an extension by up to a year.

Significance:

- 1. The choice of October 31 is significant being the day before Jean Claude Juncker, the European Commission President and fellow commissioners steps down, thus enabling the UK to exit before the new commissioners are in place.
- 2. Had an extension longer than this been sought there would have been questions around whether or not Britain would get to have a British European Commissioner (currently each country has one, with the role of President and Vice-President rotating between countries).

Govt, Labour Party talks

- The British government and Labour Party have been engaged in talks centering on one part of the wider withdrawal agreement – the political declaration on future relations.
- The government has made clear that the legal text of the treaty itself is not part of those negotiations. However, while the government has insisted it is willing to compromise on the declaration and that there were no red lines, the Labour party has repeatedly insisted that the government has not really been willing to give ground — a concern clearly shared by EU leaders, some of whom indicated that it was possible that the October 31 date would be one that would have to be revisited in the future.
- Meanwhile, opposition to both the extension and talks with Labour has continued to build within the Conservative Party. Earlier this week, 177 Conservative MPs voted against May's deal, while some looked for options to oust May early.
- No Confidence Motion:
- However, their ability to do this is limited because May won a party no confidence vote last year, which means that this process can't take place

Note



again till mid-December this year. May has already said she will stand down before the next phase of Brexit negotiations, but with no agreement on the current phase in site, when she will do so is an open-ended question.

Sudan President Bashir ousted

In news:

Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir has been ousted and arrested by the military after nearly 30 years in power. Three-month state of emergency was being put in place.

In brief:

Demonstrations against Mr Bashir, who has governed Sudan since 1989, have been taking place for several months. The protests were started in December over the soaring price of bread evolved into a countrywide street movement that harnessed the frustrations of many young Sudanese.

Lt. Gen. Awad Mohamed Ahmed Ibn Auf, the defense minister and a confidant of Mr. al-Bashir announced that

- the dissolution of government
- the release of political prisoners
- a two-year transition steered by a military council
- the suspension of Sudan's Constitution
- curfews starting at 10 p.m. that night

There is also the question of the cracks within the Sudanese security establishment which was evident during the clashes between soldiers and intelligence/militia forces in recent days. This is a military coup with no clear roadmap for how the generals plan to hand over power to civilian rule. The fear will be that they have no such intention.

The protesters are now demanding a civilian council to lead the transition rather than a military one.

Who is Omar al-Bashir?

Formerly an army officer (Paratrooper), he seized power in a military coup in 1989.

Al-Bashir also oversaw a long-running civil war between north and south Sudan, which ended in a peace agreement in 2005 and eventually led to the break-up of his country with the independence of South Sudan, in 2011.

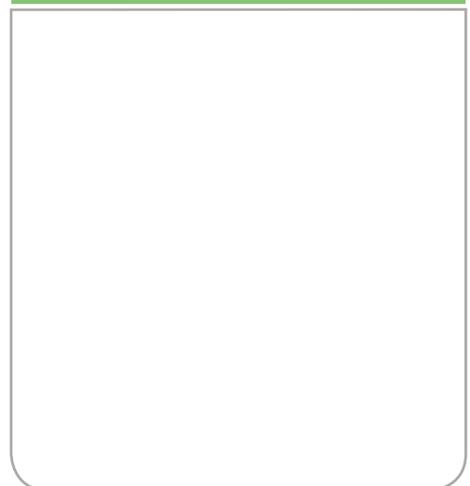
In the 1990s, he hosted Osama bin Laden, inviting US sanctions

Sudan has been classified as a state sponsor of terror by the US State Department since 1993.

In addition, he sent



Note



thousands of Sudanese soldiers to fight outside the country, including in the civil war in Yemen.

Mr Bashir is a subject of an international arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC), which accuses him of organising war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sudan’s western Darfur region.

Darfuri humanitarian crisis:

Numerous rebel groups drawn from Sudan’s African tribes had risen up to fight government-backed militias made up of Sudanese Arabs – the country’s largest ethnic group. The rebels accused the Arab militias of stealing their land. These militias, backed by the government in Khartoum, had massacred indigenous African tribal people and burned and looted their villages. Hundreds of thousands were killed, and 2 million people internally displaced since 2003.

PRELIMS TITBITS

Dabhol power station

- It is a thermal power station located at Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra.
- It started functioning from 2000.
- The power plant was built by Dabhol Power Company which was a joint venture of Enron, General Electric, Bechtel and Maharashtra Power Development Corporation.
- The plant was mired in controversies of corruption and malpractices involving Enron and people at the highest political levels of the Indian and the United States.



National highway 44

- National Highway 44 (NH 44) is the longest-running major north–south National Highway in India.
- It begins from Srinagar and terminates in Kanyakumari; the highway passes through the states of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.
- Days earlier the Government of India banned the Udhampur to Baramulla sector of NH44 in Jammu and Kashmir for civilian usage on every Sundays and Wednesdays till May 31, 2019.
- This was done to prevent any terror attacks on the eve of elections.



Note

