

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Internal documents at Facebook show “a struggle with misinformation, hate speech and celebrations of violence” in India, the company’s biggest market, with researchers at the social media giant pointing out that there are groups and pages “replete with inflammatory and misleading content” on its platform, U.S. media reports have said.

China’s legislature has adopted a new border law, to take effect on January 1, that calls on the state and military to safeguard territory and “combat any acts” that undermine China’s territorial claims. The law was first proposed in March this year, a year into tensions that erupted along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India after the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) mobilised two divisions in forward areas and carried out multiple transgressions. China has unresolved border disputes with India and Bhutan. The new law, observers said, would formalise some of China’s recent actions in disputed territories with both India and Bhutan, including the PLA’s massing of troops in forward areas along the India border, multiple transgressions across the LAC, and the construction of new “frontier villages” along the border with Bhutan.

With edible oil prices remaining firm ahead of the festive season, the Centre has urged the States to take suitable action to ensure lower prices for consumers, including a review of their stockholding limits. Food and Public Distribution Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey has written to the States outlining the initiatives taken to ease prices for consumers “keeping the festive season in mind”, and convened a review meeting with them on Monday. He has also advised them not to allow any stakeholder in the supply chain to hold stocks in excess of two months of storage capacity.

Ethiopia’s military launched two air strikes on what a government official said were rebelheld facilities in Tigray, the seventh and eighth bombardments in its wartorn northern region in a week. The strikes, far from the regional capital Mekele, signalled the military was potentially widening its campaign of air strikes, which has drawn international rebukes and disrupted

A CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION PLAN FOR INDIA

1.Provision of electricity security in India has a long way to go since its per capita electricity consumption is still only a third of the global average. **What is the status of India’s energy security?** Energy security refers to the uninterrupted supply of energy at affordable prices. As of 31 July 2020, the total installed power capacity in India was 372 GW. The share of non-fossil fuels in installed capacity is 38%. India’s energy consumption is forecast to grow at around 4.5 per cent annually to 2035. India faces the twin challenges of providing energy security to its population and mitigating climate change.

2.**What are the major sources of India’s energy sector?** Thermal plants – Coal is the key driver that fuels the thermal power plants in India. Coal plays a vital role to achieve SDG 7, which is “to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”. The thermal power plants contributed 71% electricity generated by utilities in India during FY 2020-21 . But they accounted for only 55% of the total installed generation capacity of 382 GW (as of March 2021). Renewable energy - Variable renewable energy sources (VRE) (primarily, wind and solar) account for 24.7% of the total installed generation capacity, as of March 2021. They contributed 10.7% of the electricity generated by utilities during FY 2020-21. The share of non-fossil fuels in installed capacity is 38% whereas India’s INDC targets to achieve 40% by 2030. But the current level of VRE in the national power grid is increasing the cost of power procurement for DISCOMs, leading to tariff increases for electricity consumers.

3.**What is the clean energy transition plan?** Retirement of specific installed generation capacity in TPPs - Based on key performance parameters such as efficiency, coal consumption, technological obsolescence, age, progressive retirement of 36 GW of installed generation capacity in 211 TPPs has been outlined. High-Efficiency-Low-Emission (HELE) TPPs- The utilization of HELE TPPs can be increased to cope up with the shortfall in baseload electricity generation. Nuclear power - The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited’s (NPCIL) construction of 11 nuclear power plants with a total generation capacity of 8,700 MW will supply 24x7 power without any CO2 emissions.

4.**What are the expected benefits out of this plan?** The total installed capacity of TPPs operated by utilities will increase even after the retirement of obsolete TPPs. TPPs to be retired saves specific coal consumption and water requirement leading to reductions in electricity tariffs. The combined thermal and nuclear capacity of 235 GW can meet the baseload requirement (80% of peak demand) during the evening peak in FY 2029-30 without expensive battery storage. India’s power generation from TPPs is expected to reduce from the level of 71% to 57% of the total electrical energy during FY 2029-30.

5.Consequently, total CO2 emissions from the power sector will go down. HELE TPPs minimise the emissions of particulate matter (PM), SO2, and NO2.

6.**What clean energy commitments have been made by India?** India made commitments to increase renewable energy installed capacity to 450 GW by 2030 It aims to implement a National Hydrogen Energy Mission to scale up annual green hydrogen production to 1 MT by 2030. The government has announced to begin a Production Linked Incentive Scheme to add 10 GW solar PV manufacturing capacity by 2025. It has announced to create 15 MMT production capacity of compressed biogas by 2024, The government aims to achieve 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by 2025-26. It also promotes energy efficiency in agriculture, buildings, industry and transport to reduce the country’s emissions intensity of GDP by 33-35 per cent over 2005 levels by 2030.

TURKEY IN FATF GREY LIST

1.The global terror financing watchdog, Financial Action Task Force (FATF), has added Turkey, along with Jordan and Mali, in its revised list of “jurisdictions under increased monitoring”. What is the FATF? Headquartered in Paris, the FATF was set up

UN flights to the famine threatened region.

The chief of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority has accused the U.S. of sabotaging the multibillion dollar project, the economic lifeline of Pakistan, a media report said. The ambitious CPEC was launched in 2015 when Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan. It aims to connect western China with the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan through a network of roads, railways and other projects of infrastructure and development. "From the point of view of the emerging geostrategic situation, one thing is clear: the United States supported by India is inimical to CPEC.

The Taliban Government in Afghanistan launched a programme to tackle hunger on Sunday, offering thousands of people wheat in exchange for labour. The scheme will be rolled out around Afghanistan's major towns and cities and employ 40,000 men in the capital alone.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the country's health workers had set a new example by achieving the milestone of administering 100 crore COVID19 vaccine doses. They had established a new benchmark in service to humanity through innovation and sheer determination, he said.

Central Asian countries have been keen to have India as a partner as they have sought to diversify their strategic ties. They have admitted New Delhi into the Ashgabat Agreement, allowing India access to connectivity networks to facilitate trade and commercial interactions with both Central Asia and Eurasia, and also access the natural resources of the region. Rising anti-Chinese sentiments within the region and security threats from the Taliban allow New Delhi and Central Asia to reimagine their engagement.

In real terms, for developed countries, complying with the demand by developing countries to pay reparations means shelling out sums of money unlikely to pass domestic political muster. And for developing countries, yielding to calls for 'net zero' means that governments such as India will appear as having caved into international bullying. The COP-26, despite all the media interest it generates, can at best incentivise adaptation that aids a transition to clean energy. But even without immediately retiring fossil fuel assets, the world needs to frame a meaningful response to a warming

in 1989 by the G7 countries. Objective - FATF acts as an international watchdog on issues of money laundering and financing of terrorism. It is empowered to curtail financing of UN-designated terrorist groups. It can limit the concerned countries from sourcing financial flows internationally and thereby constraining them economically. Members - FATF has 39 members, which comprise 37 member jurisdictions and 2 regional organisations. India became a full member in 2010.

2.FATF has 2 types of lists Black List - Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. Grey List - Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

3.What does 'increased monitoring' mean? Being placed under this means these countries have failed to prevent international money laundering and terrorist financing, and so, are on a global watchlist. Such countries are committed to resolve swiftly the identified strategic deficiencies within agreed timeframes and are subject to extra checks. They actively work with the FATF to address the gaps. This list of jurisdictions is commonly referred to as the "grey list". There are now 23 countries in the FATF grey list, officially referred to as "jurisdictions with strategic deficiencies".

4.The FATF grey list includes Pakistan, Myanmar and now, Turkey. Some of the other countries in the updated grey list - Philippines, Syria, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Morocco, Jamaica, Cambodia, Burkina Faso, and South Sudan, and the tax havens of Barbados, Cayman Islands, and Panama. The FATF also took Botswana and Mauritius out of the grey list, having shown significant progress in addressing the strategic AML/CFT deficiencies. AML/CFT refers to "Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism".

5.What does Turkey's listing mean? Turkey needs to address "serious issues of supervision" in its banking and real estate sectors, and with gold and precious stones dealers. Turkey needs to show it is - effectively tackling complex money laundering cases. pursuing terrorist financing prosecutions. prioritising cases of UN- designated terrorist organisations such as ISIL and al Qaeda.

GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY-KERALA,UTTARAKHAND DISASTERS

1.The floods and disaster in Kerala and Uttarakhand highlight a common cause that is to do with the development models adopted. What caused the recent disasters? Climate change is, undoubtedly, at the root of the rain-wreaked havoc that Kerala and Uttarakhand are seeing. Anthropogenic climate change is a key reason for such extreme weather events. However, the devastation in Kerala and Uttarakhand cannot wholly be attributed to climate change alone. The development models adopted in the states have certainly exacerbated the risks from climate change.

2.What is the case with Kerala? Madhav Gadgil report (2011) - Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) - Key Recommendations The Gadgil Committee divided the Western Ghats into 3 ecologically sensitive zones (ESZ). These are the highest (ESZ1), high (ESZ2) and moderate sensitivity (ESZ3) zones. This is in addition to the Protected Areas managed under acts such as the Wildlife Protection Act. It suggested that ESZ1 and ESZ2 would be largely 'no-gone' zones. So mining, polluting industries as well as large-scale development activities, including new railway lines are restricted in these.

3.Kasturirangan committee Rejecting the Gadgil report, the government appointed a new committee under the chairmanship of K Kasturirangan to "examine" the WGEEP report. The Kasturirangan committee did away with the graded approach in terms of ecological sensitivity. It instead divided the Western Ghats into 'cultural lands' (where there are currently human settlements) and 'natural lands'. It recommended declaring cultural lands into ecologically sensitive area (ESA). This spanned around 60,000 sq-km or 37% of the total area.

4.What is the case with Uttarakhand? Development and other economic activity in the region without much thought given to vulnerabilities of ecology and topography. Increase in hydel power projects, encroachment of streams, glaciers, etc, for construction, roads, etc. The Lakhwar Multipurpose dam that had been shelved in 1992 recently received a key approval from

globe. To limit global warming to 1.5°C, net zero emissions would have to be achieved by 2050 and emissions would need to be drastically cut by at least 45% from 2010 levels by 2030.

the Centre, despite objections from experts. The Center has also made it easier for work to proceed in seven hydel power projects in Uttarakhand, notwithstanding criticism from experts.