

## Cabinet nod for tunnel through National Park

- 11-km underground tunnel road through Sanjay Gandhi National Park will link Thane to Borivali

## \$7-bn pledge for clean energy research

- For research and development of clean energy.
- Additional \$250 million for vulnerable countries to
  - adapt to rising seas,
  - droughts and
  - other consequences of climate change.

## Govt. digs into UPA file notings to break GST Bill deadlock

## Call for pact on emission cuts

- USA and China called for an agreement
  - to cut carbon emissions
- China emits about 30 per cent of world's greenhouse gases
- U.S. about 16 per cent.
- U.S. to cut up to 28 per cent over next decade
- China to cap its growing emissions by 2030 or sooner.
- Francois Hollande calls for progressive tax on carbon
- India Pavilion inaugurated at the COP21, plans to
  - increase share of renewable energy
  - achieve 175 GW renewable energy by 2022.

## No advisory against India visit, says Russia

## Let developing nations choose solutions: Xi

- Regarding combating Climate change
  - Developing nations should have own solutions best suited to national conditions
  - Developed nations should mobilise funds for the pledged \$100 billion a year
- Goal is to limit rise in global temperatures to less than 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius
- New \$500-million initiative to find new ways for large-scale cuts in greenhouse gas emissions
- Transformative Carbon Asset Facility helps cut plans to reduce emissions

## Modi launches International Solar Alliance

- Goal is to
  - provide power to all citizens, and
  - create unlimited economic opportunity.
- Countries located fully or partly between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn to join
- Will function from National Institute of Solar Energy in India, Gurgaon.
- Main ambition is to reduce cost of finance and technology needed to deploy solar power widely

## China hosts 1st BRICS media summit

- Creating an alternative media platform for the emerging economies
- Visible rising growth trends and ample possibilities for further growth in Developing countries

## Nepal shortages put millions of children at risk: UNICEF

- Due to border protests
- There is severe shortages of fuel, food and vaccines
- Unable to deliver relief to homeless quake victims
- High risks of hypothermia (due to winter) and malnutrition

## Is climate change to blame for Syria's civil war?

- Prince Charles believes major reasons for horror in Syria is drought that lasted for about five or six years
- Climate change has "huge impact" on conflict and terrorism.

**1 DECEMBER 2015**

**NATIONAL**

**Cabinet nod for tunnel through National Park**

- The Cabinet gave an in-principle nod to a **11-km underground tunnel road cutting through** the forests of **Sanjay Gandhi National Park** to **link Thane to Borivali**

(Source URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/cabinet-nod-for-tunnel-through-national-park/article7935743.ece>)

**\$7-bn pledge for clean energy research**

- Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and other investors on Monday pledged **\$7 billion for research and development of clean energy.**
- United States, Canada and nine European countries pledged nearly \$250 million to help the most **vulnerable countries adapt to rising seas, droughts and other consequences of climate change.**


www.AmbitionIAS.com

(Source URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/7bn-pledge-for-clean-energy-research/article7934619.ece>)

**Govt. digs into UPA file notings to break GST Bill deadlock**

- NDA government is scouring the file notings made by the UPA Finance Ministers pertaining to the Bill to come up with solutions to the three objections of the Congress.

(Source URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/govt-digs-into-upa-file-notings-to-break-gst-bill-deadlock/article7934617.ece>)

<b>SHARED WISDOM</b>	
In a break from the past, BJP is borrowing GST wisdom from Congress	
<p><b>What Opposition wants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⦿ Setting up of a grievance redressal mechanism</li> <li>⦿ Mention of 18% cap on tax rates in the Bill</li> <li>⦿ Drop the 1 per cent cess (entry tax) on manufacturing states</li> <li>• Govt. says it is committed to a differentiated tax rate for essential, luxury goods</li> </ul>	<p><b>File notings to the rescue:</b> Demand for a redressal mechanism can be resolved by the Centre and the States ceding their rights to set up a mechanism to the GST council, which can then set it up</p> <p><b>Tough ask:</b> Demand to mention tax rate cap in the Bill is "non-negotiable", according to the government, since any incentive would have to go through Parliament</p> 

## What is the Goods and Services Tax?

- As the name suggests, it is a tax levied when a consumer buys a good or service.
- It is meant to be a **single, comprehensive tax** that will subsume all the other **smaller indirect taxes** on consumption like service tax, etc. This is how it is done in most developed countries.

## What is preventing GST from being a reality?

- A major change like GST requires a **constitutional amendment**, which requires a bill to be passed in both houses of Parliament.
- The GST constitutional amendment bill was passed in the Lok Sabha in May this year.
- It has been held up in the Rajya Sabha due to objections being raised by the Opposition regarding the Bill as well as issues with no direct connection to GST.
- The Bill was also placed before a Rajya Sabha select committee, which made its recommendations regarding changes to the Bill. The Cabinet cleared these changes in July.

## What are the Opposition's objections?

- The Congress wants a provision **capping the GST rate at 18 per cent** to be added to the Bill itself.
- It also wants to **scrap the proposed 1 per cent additional levy (over and above the GST) for manufacturing states**.
- This levy was demanded by manufacturing states who argued that they needed to be compensated for the investment they had made in improving their manufacturing capabilities. The Centre had agreed to this demand to encourage the states to support the GST Bill.
- The third demand by the Congress was to change the composition of the GST council—the

body that decides the various nitty-gritty's like rates of tax, period of levy of additional tax, principles of supply, special provisions to certain states, etc. **The proposed composition is for the Council to be two-thirds comprised from states and one-third from the Centre.**

- The Congress wants the Centre's share **to be reduced to one-fourth.**
- This demand, however, was rejected by even the Rajya Sabha Standing Committee.

### **Call for pact on emission cuts**

- **USA and China called for an agreement** that would **cut carbon emissions** and pave the way for a **global transition to a green economy.**
- **China emits about 30 per cent of the world's greenhouse gases and the U.S. about 16 per cent.**
- In a joint announcement last year, **Mr. Obama pledged to cut U.S. emissions up to 28 per cent over the next decade, while Xi announced China would cap its growing emissions by 2030 or sooner.**
- French President **Francois Hollande** called for a **progressive tax on carbon** to reflect its true price, and send the message that there is a cost to emitting greenhouse gases damaging the environment.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, while inaugurating the **India Pavilion at the COP21** event, said India intended to make massive changes to its energy profile by **increasing the share of renewables, achieving 175 GW by 2022.**

(Source URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/call-for-pact-on-emission-cuts/article7934613.ece>)

### **No advisory against India visit, says Russia**

- Russia has dismissed media reports that suggested it had identified India as an unsafe destination for Russian tourists.

- Russia had recently issued an advisory for tourists bound for the West Asian region, especially to Egypt where a Metro Jet airliner was downed in October by IS terrorists.

(Source URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/no-advisory-against-india-visit-says-russia/article7934646.ece>)

### **Let developing nations choose solutions: Xi**

- In combating Climate change, **Developing nations** should be allowed to seek their **own solutions best suited to national conditions**, while **developed nations should mobilise funds for the \$100 billion a year** they had agreed to give before 2020.
- Key requirement for a successful conference would be the formulation of a credible path to **limit the rise in global temperatures to less than 2 degrees Celsius, or 1.5 degrees C if possible.**
- Germany, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland announced on Monday a new **\$500-million initiative that “will find new ways to create incentives aimed at large-scale cuts in greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries to combat climate change”**
- The **Transformative Carbon Asset Facility** to go into operation in 2016 in developing countries is **aimed at helping them cut plans to reduce emissions through new classes of carbon assets associated with greenhouse gas emission reductions.**
- The facility would measure and fund emission cuts in large-scale programmes in renewable energy, transport, energy efficiency, solid waste management, and low-carbon cities.

www.AmbitionIAS.com

(Source URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/let-developing-nations-choose-solutions-xi/article7934651.ece>)

### **Modi launches International Solar Alliance**

- An announcement by Prime Minister Modi that the revolution in the field would bring **power to all citizens, and create unlimited economic opportunity.**
- The new body, which has invited all **countries located fully or partly between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn to join**, is to function from the **National Institute of Solar Energy in India, Gurgaon.**
- ISA says it seeks to share collective **ambitions to reduce the cost of finance and technology that is needed to deploy solar power widely**
- Among the tasks that the Alliance would pursue are, cooperation in training, building institutions, regulatory issues, common standards, and investment including joint ventures.

(Source URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/modi-launches-international-solar-alliance/article7934916.ece>)

www.AmbitionIAS.com

### **China hosts 1st BRICS media summit**

- China has taken the initiative for **creating an alternative media platform for the emerging economies** by hosting the first media summit of countries belonging to the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) grouping.
- Unlike media and journalism in developed countries, which is facing major difficulties and often experiencing trends of decline, mainstream media in the BRICS countries has “an important comparative advantage”, **visible in rising growth trends and ample possibilities for further growth.**

(Source URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/china-hosts-1st-brics-media-summit/article7934602.ece>)

### **Nepal shortages put millions of children at risk: UNICEF**

- **Severe shortages of food and vaccines** due to **border protests** have left millions of children in quake-hit Nepal at risk of disease or death this winter, UNICEF said
- The disruption has caused crippling **shortages of fuel and medicine**, leaving aid organisations scrambling to **deliver relief to homeless quake victims** seven months after the April 25 disaster killed nearly 9,000 people.
- The **risks of hypothermia and malnutrition**, and the shortfall in life-saving medicines and vaccines, could be a potentially deadly combination for children this winter

(Source URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/nepal-shortages-put-millions-of-children-at-risk-unicef/article7934609.ece>)

### **Is climate change to blame for Syria's civil war?**

- Prince Charles, for one, seems to think “There is very good evidence indeed that one of the **major reasons for this horror in Syria was a drought that lasted for about five or six years,**”
- Climate change is having a “**huge impact**” on **conflict and terrorism.**
- First, most of the public and policy discourse on the conflict implications of climate change is driven by politics, not science.
- There was a multi-year drought during the late 2000s across the “fertile crescent”, a region defined by the authors as stretching from southern Russia to Saudi Arabia.
- Crucial among these is that pre-war drought in Syria led to the displacement of as many as 1.5 million people to the country's cities.

(Source URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/is-climate-change-to-blame-for->



[syrias-civil-war/article7934611.ece\)](#)

www.AmbitionIAS.com