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Solar power breaks a price barrier

In another barrier-breaking development, the **auctioned** (□□□□) price of solar photovoltaic (SPV) power per kilowatt hour has dropped below ₹3 to ₹2.97 in Madhya Pradesh, providing a clear pointer to the future course of **renewable energy** (□□□□□□□□ □□□□). The levellised **tariff** (□□) – factoring in a small annual increase for a given period of time – for the 750 MW Rewa project over a 25-year period is ₹3.29, which is less than half the rate at which some State governments signed contracts in recent years. The progress of this clean source of energy must be deepened with policy **incentives** (□□□□□□□□□□ □□□□), for several reasons. Arguably, the most important is the need to connect millions of people without access to electricity. A rapid scaling-up of solar capacity is **vital** (□□□□□□□□□□) also to meet the national goal of installing 100 gigawatts by 2022, a target that is being internationally monitored as part of the country's **pledges** (□□□□□□□□□□) under the Paris Agreement on climate change. It will also be transformational for the environment, since pollution from large new coal-based power plants can be avoided. There is everything to gain by accelerating the pace of growth that essentially began in 2010, with the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission. Yet, performance has not matched **intent** (□□□□□) and the target of installing 12 GW solar capacity in 2016-17 is far from attainable, since it fell short by almost 10 GW as of December.

A **glaring** (□□□□□□) **lacuna** (□□□) in the national policy on renewables is the failure to tap the investment potential of the middle class. While grid-connected large-scale installations have received maximum attention, there is slow progress on rooftop solar. Clearly, adding capacity of the order of more than 10 GW annually over the next six years

towards the 100 GW target will require active participation and investment by the buildings sector, both residential and commercial. This process can be kick-started using mass participation by citizens, with State electricity utilities being given mandatory time frames to introduce net-metering systems with a feed-in tariff that is designed to encourage the average consumer to invest in PV modules, taking grid electricity prices into account. The experience of Germany, where **robust**([robust]) solar expansion has been taking place over the years, illustrates the benefits of policy guarantees for rooftop installations and feed-in tariffs lasting 20 years. SPV costs are expected to continue to fall, and tariffs paid both for large plants and smaller installations require periodic review. At some point, significant **subsidies**([subsidies]) may no longer be necessary. That scenario, however, is for the future. Currently, India needs a lot more good quality power, which renewables provide. Solar power is an emissions-free driver of the economy, generating growth in both direct and indirect employment. A lot of sunlight remains to be tapped.

- 1) Auctioned meaning is sale by bid, sell-off, competitive-sale.
- 2) Renewable Energy meaning is energy generated from natural resources—such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides and geothermal heat—which are renewable (naturally replenished).
- 3) Incentives meaning is lure, inducement, enticement, impetus.
- 4) Vital meaning is essential, necessary, important, crucial.
- 5) Pledges meaning is word of honor, sign of good faith, assurance, agreement.
- 6) Intent meaning is determined, resolute, aim.
- 7) Glaring meaning is obvious, unconcealed, bright, dazzling.
- 8) Lacuna meaning is a blank gap or missing

part, deficit, insufficiency.

9) Robust meaning is strong, healthy, powerful, hefty.

10) Subsidies meaning is money given to help another, allowances, bonus.

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[Bowling down to patriarchy](#)

One of the success stories of **affirmative**([अतिरिक्त](#)) action in India has been the implementation of reservation of seats in local body elections for women, to the order of 33% or more. The importance of democratising the public sphere by inclusive participation of women in a largely male-dominated society cannot be stressed enough. In rural areas the quota has helped improve local governance, enhancing outcomes in delivery of civic services related to drinking water supply, sanitation and irrigation, among others. In urban local bodies, the visible impact has been more quantitative in terms of representation rather than qualitative, with success being linked to emphasis on gender sensitisation by civil society and political parties. It is therefore unfortunate that the Nagaland government, after initial **steadfastness**([अटकल](#)) to hold the long-delayed urban local body polls on February 1,

declared the elections as “null and void” after some tribal bodies, opposed to reservations for women, sought to **disrupt**(□□□□□) the process. Rather than bowing to this pressure, the State government led by the Nagaland People’s Front should have enforced the rule of law. That a **substantial**(□□□□□□□□) number of towns participated in the elections despite a bandh called by the tribal bodies reflects public support for affirmative action as mandated by the 74th Amendment to the Constitution.

Article 371A of the Constitution secures a special status for Nagaland. But as the civil society groups **striving**(□□□□□□) for reservation have argued, urban local bodies are not part of traditional Naga society, and ULBs are constitutional bodies to which customary Naga laws cannot be applied. The conduct of the long-delayed elections was achieved after a **protracted**(□□□□□) legal struggle led by women’s groups. Arguments against women’s reservation invoking Naga customs have been consistently **quashed**(□□ □□□□□ □□ □□□□) by the courts, ultimately paving the way for elections to be announced for February 1. The State government later submitted to pressure exerted by the Naga Hoho, an apex group of 16 tribal groups, which smelled blood and sought Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang’s resignation. The State government then wrote to the Centre seeking **exemption**(□□□) for Nagaland from Part IXA of the Constitution – which is clearly **untenable**(□□□□□□□□□□). The Centre, meanwhile, sees Nagaland merely through the lens of the still- pending peace accord with some **insurgent**(□□□□□□□□□) groups. This milieu has emboldened patriarchal forces to assert themselves and deny women their constitutionally guaranteed rights of representation in local bodies. Civil society and women’s groups now have their work cut out in realising their just demand for electoral representation. Denial of women’s rights cannot be a measure of the State’s autonomy.

1)Affirmative meaning is being agreeable or

assenting, approving, supporting

2) Steadfastness meaning is faithfulness, constancy, fidelity

3) Disrupt meaning is disturb, upset, break, disorganize.

4) Substantial meaning is important, meaningful, ample, big.

5) Striving meaning is try for, attempt, exert oneself, endeavor.

6) Protracted meaning is long, chronic, continued, sustained.

7) Quashed meaning is destroy, defeat, squash, suppress.

8) Exemption meaning is relieve, absolve, freed from responsibility, immune.

9) Untenable meaning is incapable of being defended or justified.

10) Insurgent meaning is rebellious, revolutionary.

10 February Hindu Editorial With Vocabulary For SBI PO 2017

Prudence (□□□□□) amid (□□ □□□)
uncertainty

For the first time in six meetings this fiscal, the Reserve Bank of India has shifted its policy **poise**(□□□□□), moving to

'neutral' from an '**accommodative**([...])' stance. The central bank's Monetary Policy Committee has opted to sit pat on rates and choose to give itself time to "assess how the transitory effects of demonetisation on inflation and the output gap play out". The decision came just a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Parliament that the government's move to withdraw high-value currency notes had been **undergirded**([...]) by the premise that the economy was "doing well and thus our decision was taken at the right time". The RBI's emphasis on caution suggests that not only has the economy suffered short-run disruptions – as the central bank said in December – but that the long-term impact may be far more enduring and hard to predict than **anticipated**([...]). The policy statement issued by the six-member MPC also projected the second successive downward revision in economic growth as measured by the Gross Value Added for the current year ending in March, with the pace of increase in GVA now forecast at 6.9%, from 7.1% in December and 7.6% prior to the November demonetisation.

Separately, both the outlook for inflation and international **uncertainty**([...]) are also causes for concern, according to the RBI. Viral Acharya, the recently inducted Deputy Governor overseeing monetary policy, flagged the risks that global inflation and a strengthening U.S. dollar pose to domestic price gains. Specifically, the central bank is worried about the "unyielding" nature of core retail inflation, which strips out food and fuel costs, and has been stuck around 4.9% since September, mainly due to stickiness in price gains for housing, health, education, personal care and household services. The MPC **reckons**([...]) that the "**persistence**([...]) of inflation excluding food and fuel could set a floor on further downward movements in headline inflation and trigger second-order effects" that, when combined with hardening international crude oil and base metal prices and exchange rate volatility. It could have the potential to threaten the RBI's baseline inflation path of

4.5% to 5% in the second half of 2017-18. And ironically, were the effects of demonetisation to wear off quickly, vegetable prices, that had softened on the back of distress sales of **perishables**(ख़रिदने योग्य सामान), could potentially rebound, posing another risk to the central bank's inflation outlook. As Mr. Acharya summed it up at the post-policy briefing, the RBI has plumped for prudence and flexibility.

1)Prudence meaning is diligence,austerity,wisdom.

2)Amid meaning is among,between,middle.

3)Poise meaning is self composure,confidence,stability,self assurance.

4)Accommodative meaning is helpful in bringing about a harmonious adaptation.

5)Undergird meaning is bolster,support,hold,reinforce

6)Anticipated meaning is expect,predict,assume.

7)Uncertainty meaning is doubt,changeableness,ambiguity,ambivalence

8)Reckons meaning is calculate,evaluate,add up,suppose.

9)Persistence meaning is stubbornness, obstinacy, perseverance, insistence, importunity.

10)Perishables meaning is decaying,rot,liable to spoil,destructible.