

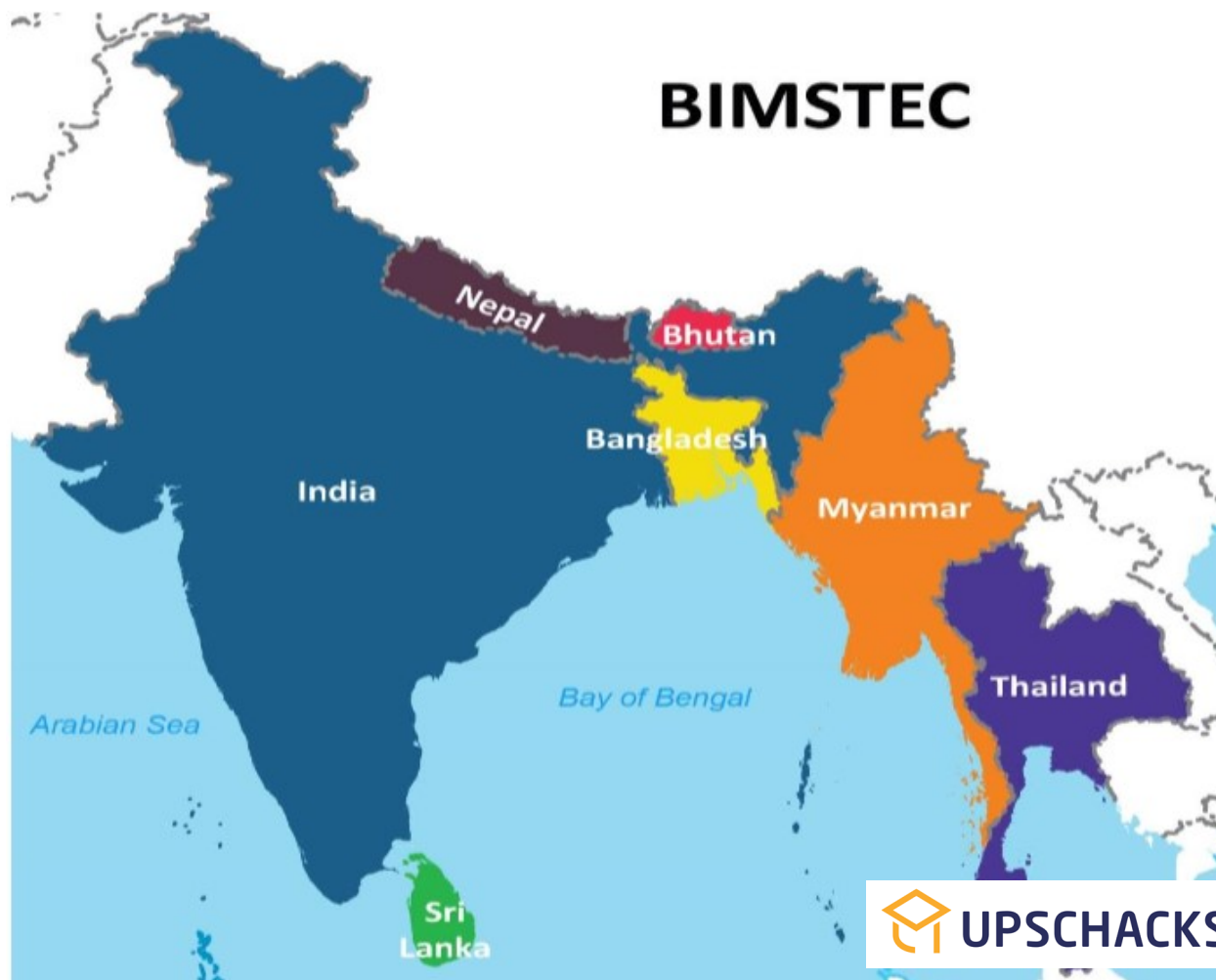
# India's biggest floating solar power plant at Ramagundam in Telangana



- India's biggest floating solar power plant with a capacity of 100 MW will be set up at Ramagundam in Telangana.
- The project expected to be opened in May, is being set up at Ramagundam thermal power plant reservoir.
- The solar project is commissioned by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).

- . The project, which is estimated to cost around 423 crore rupees, will have 4.5 lakh photovoltaic panels.**
- . The solar panels will cover 450-acre area of the reservoir and can be expanded in the future.**
- . NTPC's efforts to set up floating solar power projects is aimed at reducing its carbon footprints and accelerate its green energy production to 30 per cent of its capacity.**
- . The world's largest solar power plant with 600 MW capacity is being set up on Omkareshwar Dam on Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh.**
- . The project costing 3,000 crore rupees is expected to start power generation only by 2022-23.**

# BIMSETC



- External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar has said that India remains committed to further building the momentum of regional cooperation under the BIMSTEC framework. He said this while delivering a statement at the 17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting held virtually.
- He expressed happiness that BIMSTEC Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and illicit Drug Trafficking has come into force last month.

- Also, BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters has been finalized for signing at the fifth BIMSTEC Summit. These Conventions will provide a robust legal basis to further strengthen our cooperation in this sector.

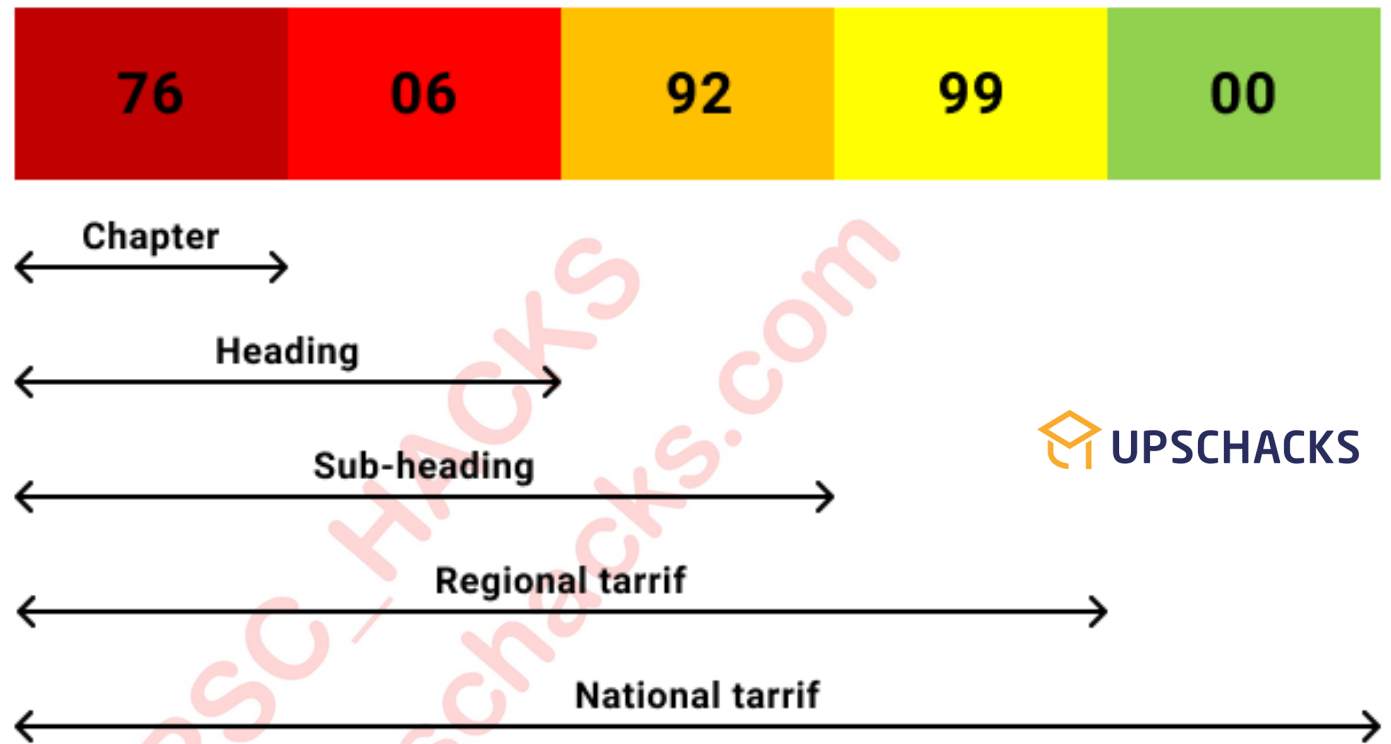


- BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate, being hosted in India, is fully functional with state of the art facilities to provide Disaster Early Warning.
- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the areas of the Bay of Bengal.
- This organization came into being in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand.



# HARMONISED SYSTEM OF NOMENCLATURE (HSN) CODE

## Structure of HSN CODE




HSN  
classification  
code list

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- Government has made mandatory that a GST taxpayer having turnover of more than 5 crore rupees in the preceding financial year will have to furnish 6 digits Harmonised System of Nomenclature HSN Code, or Service Accounting Code, SAC from April 1, 2021 on the invoices issued for supplies of taxable goods and services.
- HSN codes for goods at 6 digits are universally common. Therefore, common HSN codes apply to Customs and GST. HSN search facility is available on the GST

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- A taxpayer having turnover of upto Rs 5 crore in the preceding financial year is required to mandatorily furnish 4 digits HSN code on B2B invoices. 
- Earlier, the requirement was 4 digits and 2 digits.
- Manufacturers and importers or exporters have been commonly using HSN Codes.
- A large number of GST taxpayers are already furnishing HS codes or SAC at 6 or 8 digits on voluntary basis on the invoices, e -way bills and GSTR 1 returns.

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# WATERGATE SCANDAL




- G Gordon Liddy, the former FBI agent and Republican adviser who was widely considered the mastermind behind the 1972 Watergate break-in, died at the age of 90.
- The Watergate scandal was a political scandal in the United States involving the administration of U.S. President Richard Nixon from 1971 to 1974 that led to Nixon's resignation.
- The scandal stemmed from the Nixon administration's continuous attempts to cover up its involvement in the June 17, 1972 break-in of the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Washington, D.C. Watergate Office Building.
- After the five perpetrators were arrested, the press and the U.S. Justice Department connected the cash found on them at the time to the Nixon re-election campaign committee.
- It led to the country's first and only presidential resignation.

# NEW EMISSION NORMS FOR COAL-FIRED POWER



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. The government has pushed back deadlines for coal-fired power plants to adopt new emission norms by up to three years, and allowed utilities that miss the new target to continue operating after paying a penalty, according to a notice

- . India had initially set a 2017 deadline for thermal power plants to install Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) units that cut emissions of sulphur dioxides. But that was postponed to varying deadlines for different regions, ending in 2022.
- . The new order dated April 1 from the environment Ministry said plants near populous regions and the capital New Delhi will have to comply by 2022, while utilities in less polluting areas have up to 2025 to comply or retire units. 
- . Operators of coal-fired utilities have long been lobbying for dilution of the pollution standards, citing high compliance costs.
- . A task force will be constituted by the Central Pollution Control Board to categorise plants in three categories “on the basis of their location to comply with the emission norms”. A penalty of up to ₹0.20 will be levied for every unit .



# **JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION (JCPOA)**





- . The announcement marked the first major progress in efforts to return both countries to the 2015 accord, which bound Iran to restrictions on its nuclear programmes in return for relief from U.S. and international sanctions.

- . Trump pulled the U.S. out of the accord in 2018, opting for a “maximum pressure” campaign of stepped-up U.S. sanctions and other tough actions.
- . Iran responded by intensifying its enrichment of uranium and building of centrifuges, while maintaining its insistence that its nuclear development was for civilian and not military purposes. Iran’s moves increased pressure on major world powers over the Trump administration's sanctions and raised tensions among U.S. allies and strategic partners in West Asia.
- . Agreement on the start of indirect talks came after the EU helped broker a virtual meeting of officials from Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and Iran, which have remained in the accord, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

# MATERNAL DEATHS





- The failure of the health system to cope with COVID-19 pandemic resulted in an increase in maternal deaths and stillbirths, according to a study published in The Lancet Global Health journal.

- Overall, there was a 28% increase in the odds of stillbirth, and the risk of mothers dying during pregnancy or childbirth increased by about one-third.
- There was also a rise in maternal depression. 
- The report is an analysis of 40 studies across 17 countries including Brazil, Mexico, the U.S., Canada, the U.K., Denmark, Netherlands, Italy, India, China and Nepal.
- The study attributes the worsening trend to the failure of the “inefficiency of the healthcare system and their inability to cope with the pandemic” instead of strict lockdown measures. This resulted in reduced access to care.
- In India, during the months of national lockdown last year between April and June, compared to the same period in 2019, there was a 27% drop in pregnant women receiving four or more ante-natal check-ups, a 28% decline in institutional deliveries and 22% decline in prenatal services. 

# COMMITTEES ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY



- **Central Government has constituted three expert committees to review the existing rules and regulations on safety, health and working conditions standards, pertaining to factories, docks and construction work.** 
- **One committee will look into the safety parameters of industries, docks and ports while the other two committees have been asked to study and suggest rules for the building and other construction works and the fire safety.**
- **A separate committee on fire safety standards has been formed to have a comprehensive and holistic approach for fire safety provisions, in view of recent spurt in fire accidents at workplaces.**
- **This process will pave the way for establishing uniform and updated standards of safety and health of workers throughout the country.** 

# TAPI (Turkmenistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan – India) Pipeline



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. During the Heart of Asia conference, Afghanistan President lauded India's air effort with respect to the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline.

. Also known as Afghanistan Pipeline, it is a natural gas pipeline being developed by the Galkynysh – TAPI Pipeline Company Limited

. The TAPI Pipeline extends for approx. 1,600 kilometers (km), from the Turkmenistan (TKM)-Afghanistan (AFG) border to the Pakistan (PAK)-India (IND) border.

. The pipeline will transport 33 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas annually from TKM to respective buyers in AFG (5%), PAK (47.5%) and IND (47.5%) during the 30-year commercial operations period.

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. The Project comprises the procurement, installation and operation of the pipeline and related facilities within AFG and PAK.

- Once operational, the TAPI Pipeline will allow TKM to diversify and expand its gas export markets to the southeast, into AFG, PAK, and IND. 
- The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Programs Strategy for Regional Cooperation in the Energy Sector has identified the TAPI Pipeline as one of the main links in the inter-energy relationship among CAREC countries.
- Overall, the TAPI Pipeline will have transformational Impact on regional cooperation and will also support other initiatives aimed at increasing growth and economic stability in the region.
- The Project is aligned with the development strategies of TKM, AFG, PAK and IND, as reflected in their respective Country Partnership Strategies, and is also consistent with the objectives of ADBs Strategy 2030.