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MK Yadav Sir

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BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 4

KIRIT PARIKH COMMITTEE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Parikh panel proposal on gas pricing likely to get govt nod

The move, pending Cabinet nod, may lead to an increase in natural gas prices

SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY
New Delhi, 19 March

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has accepted the main recommendations made by the Kirit Parikh committee in November 2022 on natural gas pricing, and the same will be further recommended to the Cabinet, a number of officials said. The move is expected to impact the energy sector, as the price of natural gas will likely increase.

The officials said the recommendation of moving to a purely market-determined natural gas pricing system in the next four years, and instituting a ceiling price at $6.5 metric million British thermal unit (MMBtu) and float price of $4 per MMBtu for domestic natural gas prices till then have been accepted without any changes.

PROPOSED RULES

Recommendations of the committee

- Market-linked natural gas prices by Jan 2027
- Price range for gas production from legacy and old fields till then
- Floor price of $4/mmBtu and cap of $6.50/mmBtu for domestic gas
- Cap price to be raised by $0.50 every year
- Domestic gas priced at 10% of crude oil price
- No change in gas produced from new, difficult fields



Context: The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has accepted the main recommendations made by the **Kirit Parikh committee** in November 2022 **on natural gas pricing,** and the same will be further recommended to the Cabinet.

Major recommendations of the committee

- **Ceiling price:** There is a need for a fixed pricing band for gas from old fields which is called **APM (Administrative Price Mechanism) gas**.
  - These fields account for two-third of natural gas produced in the country.
    - This would **ensure a predictable pricing regime** for producers while also lowering prices of CNG and piped cooking gas.
  - The **prices have risen by 70%** since 2021 due to an increase in input costs.
    - Currently, the legacy or old fields are governed on a **nomination basis** without any condition of sharing profits and therefore the government controls its price.
- **Linking the price**: The panel has sought a link in the **gas price to imported oil.**
- **Improved profits**: If the recommendations are implemented then the state-run ONGC and OIL will have to reduce prices from the current level and this will help **improve the margins of city gas companies** like IGL, MGL and Gujarat Gas.
- **No-cut category**: The city gas will continue to get top priority in the **allocation of APM gas.**
  - The sector will be in the **'no-cut' category** which means that the supplies to other consumers will be cut first in case of a decline in production.

- **Other recommendations:**
  - To **include gas in GST** with compensation for five years.
  - This would be done by **subsuming excise duty** charged by the central government and varying rates of VAT levied by state governments.
  - **Caps on gas prices** must be removed in three years.
  - Government should gradually come out of th**e gas allocation business.**
  - **No changes to the existing pricing formula** for fields with difficult geology.
  - Currently, fields in **Deepsea or in high-temperature,** high-pressure zones are governed by a different formula that includes an element of imported LNG cost and is subject to a ceiling.

ECONOMIC TIMES

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LTRO AND TLTRO

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

DEMAND FOR CREDIT ALSO STRONG

Banks Expect a Spike in Overnight Call Money Rates

Advance tax and GST payments to cause liquidity shrinkage in the last month of FY23

Joel.Rebello@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Banks expect overnight rates to edge higher at the end of the month as advance tax and goods and services tax (GST) payments should cause liquidity shrinkage. Credit demand and reversal of the Covid era's targeted long term repo operations (TLTRO) are also expected to suck cash out from the banking system.

Last week, overnight interbank call money rates jumped to 6.80%, higher than the marginal standard facility (MSF) rate of 6.75% at the upper band of the interest-rate corridor, pointing to the likely direction in rates toward month-end.

Data show the weighted average rate in the tri-party repo system (TREPS) that also draws mutual funds participation has increased to 6.70% on March 17, up from 6.27% at the start of the month.

Bankers said overnight rates are expected to remain high as besides the tax outflows, demand for credit is also strong at the end of year.

"It is fair to assume that overnight rates will remain elevated around current levels but it is unlikely to go much higher because the Reserve Bank has stepped in to provide even long term repos whenever there is a need for additional liquidity," said Arun Bansal, head of treasury at IDBI Bank.

Bansal was pointing to Rs 82,650 crore borrowed by banks on March 10 through a 14-day variable rate repo auction held by the RBI.

Later this month, the reversal of this repo as well as the Rs 11,987 crore three-year targeted long term repo (TLTRO), which was offered in March 2020, will also impact liquidity.

Bansal, however, said that it is unlikely that rates will spike much as government spending will pick up.

"In fact, the heavier TLTRO outflow is expected in April when more than Rs 60,000 crore of TLTRO's will mature. But by then government spending would have kicked in and liquidity pressures would have ebbed," Bansal said.

Weighted average rate in TREPS has increased to 6.70% on March 17, up from 6.27% at the start of the month

Yields on the short term treasury bills, which had risen above the longer dated government bonds, corrected last week with the cut-off for the 364 days bill at 7.31%, lower than that of the 10-year paper around 7.36%, helped by the infusion of Rs 82,650 crore from the 14 day repo auction by the RBI.

Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda, said overnight rates are also elevated in expectations of another 25 basis point hike by the RBI in its monetary policy review in early April.

Rate Moves

0/0 Overnight interbank rates jumped to **6.80%, higher than the marginal standard facility (MSF) rate of 6.75%**

Unlikely that rates will spike much as **government spending will pick up soon, say bankers**

Yields on short-term treasury bills corrected last week, helped by the infusion of ₹82,650 cr from the 14 day repo auction by the RBI



Context: Banks expect overnight rates to edge higher at the end of the month as advance tax and goods and services tax (GST) payments should cause liquidity shrinkage.

- Credit demand and reversal of the Covid era's **targeted long term repo operations (TLTRO)** are also expected to suck cash out from the banking system.
- Last week, overnight interbank call money rates jumped to 6. 80%, higher than the **marginal standard facility (MSF) rate** of 6. 75% at the upper band of the interest rate corridor, pointing to the likely direction in rates toward month-end.
- Data show the weighted average rate in the **tri-party repo system (TREPS)** that also draws mutual funds participation has increased to 6. 70% on March 17, up from 6. 27% at the start of the month.

TRO or TLTRO

- **About**: LTRO is a tool that **allows banks to borrow one to three years of funds f**rom the Central Bank at the Repo rate.
  - It is called **'Targeted' LTRO** if the Central Bank wants banks opting for funds under this option to be specifically invested in investment-grade corporate debt.
- **Origin**: LTRO was **first introduced by the European Central Bank (ECB)** during its sovereign debt crisis that began in 2008.
  - The term LTRO was coined by the ECB that stood for **"long-term refinancing operations".**
- **Different from LAF and MSF:** While the RBI's current windows of **liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) and marginal standing facility (MSF)** offer banks money for their immediate needs ranging from **1-28 days**, the LTRO supplies them with liquidity for their **1- to 3-year needs.**

Tri-party repo or TREPS

- **About**: According to the RBI, "Tri-party repo is a type of repo contract where **a third entity (apart from the borrower or lender), called a Tri-Party Agent, acts as an intermediary** between the two parties to the repo to facilitate services like collateral selection, payment and settlement, custody and management during the life of the transaction."
- **Origin**: The RBI has notified the introduction of triparty repo in India in its April 11, **2017, Draft Directions.**
  - The triparty repo is a **financial market instrument** like the market repo and not like the Central Bank repo (RBI's repo).
  - This means that it may not have a monetary policy significance rather will have financial market significance.
- **Eligible Tri-Party Agents are:**
  - All tri-party agents **need authorization from RBI** to act in that capacity, before they commence operations.
  - **Scheduled commercial banks** are eligible to be tri-party agents.
  - Other entities **regulated by RBI or SEB**I subject to meeting the criteria.
- **Eligible collateral:** Government Securities and Corporate securities.

LIVE MINT

Page 2

ORGANIC FARMING
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Agriculture)

States to get rewards for organic farming

Gireesh Chandra Prasad &
Puja Das
gireesh.p@livemint.com

NEW DELHI

The Central government has designed a scheme for rewarding states that push organic farming in a measure to cut ballooning subsidies for chemical fertilizers.

As per the plan, if promotion of organic farming by a state leads to a decline in the use of chemical fertilizers, then half the subsidy saved on that account will be transferred to the state, said Professor Ramesh Chand, member, NITI Aayog. The federal policy think tank worked with Central government departments on the modalities of the scheme.

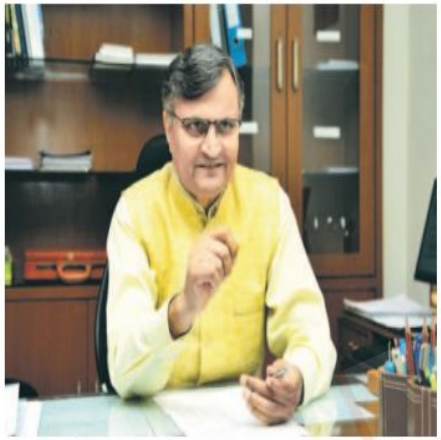
Chand said the scheme is designed to check excessive and indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers as part of the government's efforts to make farming more sustainable. Robust agriculture growth, price stability of farm produce, and sustainability are priorities for NITI Aayog in the farm sector.

"If there is any saving in fertilizer subsidy in any state, compared to the average of last three years, whatever the amount is, half of that will be given to the state government concerned," Chand said.

There will be some conditions attached to how some of the funds have to be utilised by the state but the rest can be used as per the state's own choice.

The fertilizer subsidy burden has shot up sharply in the current financial year on account of the supply disruptions and price escalation in global markets following the Russia-Ukraine war.

Although the government had originally estimated only about Rs one trillion for making plant nutrients available to farmers at affordable prices in FY23, it later sought additional spending permission from Parliament. The revised fertilizer subsidy estimate for this fiscal is around ₹2.25 trillion, as per budget documents.



Govt is working to monetize agriculture waste by procuring it from farmers and turning it into energy, said Ramesh Chand. MINT

The scheme is designed to check excessive and indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers, said Chand

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in the budget for FY24 that a new scheme--PM programme for restoration, awareness, nourishment and meleoration of mother earth (PM Pranam) will be rolled out to incentivize states to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers. Details were not announced in the budget.

The NITI Aayog member also said that the Centre is working with states to monetize agriculture waste by procuring it from farmers and turning it into energy. This would also help boost farmers' income, Chand added.

As a part of the Biodegradable Waste Management component under Swachh Bharat Mission (SMB-G), the Centre had launched GOBARdhan scheme in April 2018 to generate energy and income in addition to cleanliness by processing manure and whole agricultural waste materials such as straw, manure and crop residues in rural areas.

The scheme is being implemented under the SBM-G Phase II, primarily focusing on increasing farmers' income and turning biowaste into compressed biogas.

Context: The Central government has designed a scheme for rewarding states that push organic farming in a measure to cut ballooning subsidies for chemical fertilizers.

Organic Farming

- **About**: It is a method of farming that supports cultivating the land and growing crops in **natural ways.**
  - **India ranks 1st in the number of organic farmers** and 9th in terms of area under Organic Farming.
  - In 2016 **Sikkim became India's first fully organic state.**
  - The major organic exports from India are **sesame, flax seeds, medicinal plants, tea, soybean, rice, and pulses**
- **Components of Organic Farming:**
  - Selection of variety
  - Manage soil health
  - Water management
  - Maintain genetic diversity
  - Weed management
  - Pest and disease management
  - Livestock management
  - Nutrient management
- **Two types of Organic Farming:**
  - **Integrated Organic Farming**: It includes the **combination of nutrient management and pest management t**o achieve ecological demands and requirements.
  - **Pure Organic Farming**: It a**voids all unnatural chemicals.** In this process, all fertilizers and pesticides are obtained from only natural sources such as blood meal and bone meal.
- **Initiatives to Promote Organic Farming by the Government:**
  - Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD)
  - Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
  - Agri-export Policy 2018
  - Zero Budget Natural Farming
  - PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME)
  - One District- One Product (ODOP)
  - Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)
  - National Program for Organic Production
  - Soil Health Card Scheme

INDIAN EXPRESS

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SERBIA AND KOSOVO DEAL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

Serbia, Kosovo agree on deal to normalise ties

KOSOVO AND Serbia have reached an agreement on implementing a European Union-backed deal to normalise ties, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said late on Saturday, though the two leaders said disagreements remain. Kosovo and Serbia have been in EU-backed talks for nearly 10 years since Kosovo declared independence in 2008, almost a decade after war ended Serbian rule. But Serbia still regards Kosovo as a breakaway province and flare-ups between the Balkan neighbours have stoked fears of conflict. REUTERS

Context: Kosovo and Serbia have reached an **agreement on implementing a European Union-backed deal** to normalise ties.

Key Points

- Kosovo and Serbia have been in **EU-backed talks** for nearly 10 years since Kosovo declared independence in 2008, almost a decade after war ended Serbian rule.
- But **Serbia still regards Kosovo as a breakaway province** and flare-ups between the Balkan neighbours have stoked fears of a return to conflict.
- Kosovo and Serbia have agreed on the implementation annex of the agreement on the path to **normalisation of relations** between them.



PIB MARCH 20

G20 ENGAGEMENT GROUPS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Organisations)

L20 inception meeting focuses on universalisation of social security with women at the centre of future of work

Context: The **Labour20 (L20) engagement group's inception** meet, as part of India's G20 presidency, began deliberations in Amritsar, Punjab on key issues concerning the global workforce to provide direction to the G20 nations and institutions to focus on development reaching to the last person.

- There are **nine engagement groups** on the non-government side of the G20.
- These groups make **policy recommendations** to G20 leaders and help shape them.

Engagement Groups Under G20

- **Business 20 (B20):** The official G20 dialogue forum **representing the global business community** is the Business 20 (B20). B20, which was founded in 2010, is one of the most prominent Engagement Groups in the G20.
- **Civil20 (C20):** C20 serves as a **platform for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)** from around the world to bring a non-government and non-business perspective to the G20. The Civil 20 (C20) Engagement Group was established as an official G20 Engagement Group in 2013.
- **Labour20 (L20)**: The first formal Labour20 (L20) Summit took place in 2011 during the French Presidency. L20 brings together G20 trade union leaders to **provide analysis and policy recommendations on labor-related issues.**
- **Parliament 20 (P20)**: The Parliament 20 (P20) meetings aim to bring a parliamentary dimension to **global governance, raise awareness, build political support** for international commitments, and ensure that these are effectively translated into national realities.
- **Science20:** The Science20 Engagement Group, comprised of the G20 countries' national science academies, was established during Germany's presidency in 2017. It provides policymakers with **consensus-based, science-driven recommendations** developed by task forces of international experts.
- **Supreme Audit Institutions 20 (SAI20):** The Indonesian Presidency established the Supreme Audit Institutions 20 (SAI20) Engagement Group in 2022. It is a discussion forum for the important role that SAIs play globally in **ensuring transparency and accountability,** as well as promoting cooperation among G20 members.
- **Think 20**: Think 20 was established as an official G20 Engagement Group during Mexico's presidency in 2012. It acts as the G20's "idea bank," bringing together think tanks and high-level experts to **discuss relevant international socio economic issues.**
- **Urban 20**: At the One Planet Summit in Paris in December 2017, the Argentine Presidency established Urban 20. This is a formal Engagement Group for city leaders to discuss **issues related to urbanization, SDG goals, and the impact of climate change on cities**.
- **Women 20**: Women20 is an Engagement Group founded in 2015 during Turkey's presidency. The goal of W20 is to put into action the "25×25" commitment made at the Brisbane Summit in 2014, which aims to **reduce the gender gap in labor force participation by 25% by 2025.**
- **Youth 20 (Y20):** Youth20 (Y20), which held its first conference in 2010, **provides a platform for youth to express their vision and ideas** on G20 priorities, and develops a set of recommendations that are presented to G20 leaders.

PIB

MARCH 20

4TH DEFENCE COOPERATION DIALOGUE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

4th Defence Cooperation Dialogue between India & the Maldives held in Male

Context: India and the Maldives conducted the **4th Defence Cooperation Dialogue (DCD)** in Male on March 19, 2023.

Key Points

- This DCD is the **highest institutionalised interactive mechanism** between the two countries.
- Its significance in chartering the future course of **relations between both the Armed Force**s was highlighted by the importance given to the talks by the two nations.
- During the interaction, ongoing bilateral **defence cooperation activities** were reviewed and both sides expressed satisfaction at the increasing engagements.
- The talks covered the existing bilateral exercises, with both countries **agreeing to increase the complexity of these drills.**

India-Maldives Defence Cooperation

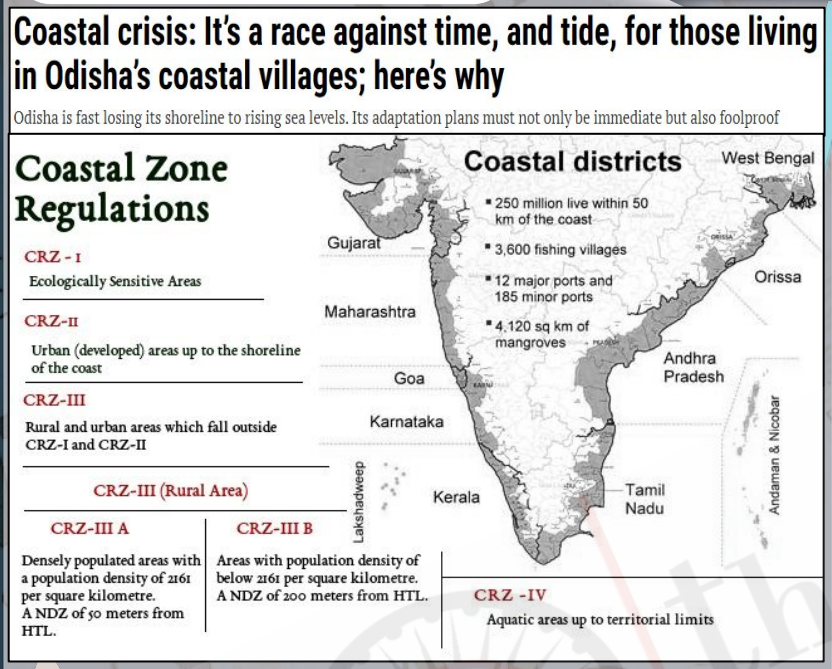
- **Origin**: Since **1988**, defence and security have been major areas of **cooperation between India and the Maldives**.
  - This cooperation extends to assisting the Maldives with defence training and equipment requirements.
  - India provides the largest number of training opportunities for the **Maldivian National Defence Force (MNDF),** meeting around 70 per cent of their defence training requirements.
- **Comprehensive action plan:** In 2016, the two countries also signed a **comprehensive action plan** to consolidate defence partnerships.
  - The **Defence Cooperation Dialogue** is one of India's policy-level frameworks that aim to strengthen long-standing and mutually beneficial bilateral defence ties.
  - The first Defence Cooperation Dialogue was held in 2016 and the second DCD was held in 2019.
- **White Shipping Information**: A technical agreement on sharing **'White Shipping Information between the Indian Navy and the Maldives National Defence Force** was also signed, enabling the exchange of prior information on the movement of commercial, non-military vessels.
  - India has adopted a **very flexible and accommodating approach** in meeting Maldivian requirements of defence training and equipment.
- **Joint military exercise: Ekuverin** is a joint military exercise between India and Maldives.

DTE

MARCH 20

SHORELINE EROSION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)



Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZM)

- **About**: It is a **World Bank supported project** that aims to build national capacity for implementation of comprehensive coastal management approach in the country.
  - The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) had launched an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project by establishing a **Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM).**
- **Components:** The national component of the project includes mapping of the country's coastline and demarcation of the hazard line.
- **Nodal Agency:** It is being implemented by the **Department of Forests and Environment** with assistance from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
  - The **National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)**, Chennai, will provide scientific and technical inputs.

Context: Data with the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Chennai, shows that 74 villages in the **Odisha state are severely affected by shoreline erosion** - the highest in the country.

Key Points

- A **major reason for this is rising sea level,** which is surging along the Odisha coast at a rate faster than the rest of the country.
- Odisha has also been battered by the **maximum number of cyclones** in the country.
- In 2010, the Union environment ministry prepared an **Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZM)** to be implemented on a pilot basis in Odisha, along with two other states prone to shoreline erosion - Gujarat and West Bengal.
- A 2022 report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India states that "Inordinate **delay in the preparation of this plan** resulted in the implementation of pilot investment activities which did not emerge from the ICZM plan and thus, these activities could not complement the plan to this extent.
- Most erosion control measures are either **not suitable for the Odisha's highly dynamic shoreline** or have implementation flaws.
- Odisha deployed its first set of **geosynthetic tubes** in Kendrapara district after the super cyclone in 1999 triggered erosion along the coast of Pentha village and initiated submergence of nearby Agarnasi island, an active nesting site for Olive Ridley sea turtles.
- After the geosynthetic tubes were installed between 2012 and 2015, officials used small rocks in between and above the geo-tube to further strengthen it, and in 2017 placed bigger rocks on top of it for better support.
- **Hard-engineered structures** like seawalls and dykes have often been criticised for their impact on the environment. Studies confirm that in several cases, when used as a stand-alone measure, seawalls have resulted in active or passive forms of coastal erosion.
- In May 2022, the **National Green Tribunal** also directed all states and Union Territories not to raise or construct hard structures for erosion control.
- As the state government prepares to implement the second phase of the ICZM project and also take up coastal adaptation measures under the **Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities (ECRICC),** a national project being funded and facilitated by the UN Development Programme, experts suggest that it must not repeat the mistakes.

DTE

MARCH 20

WORLD'S FIRST SAND BATTERY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)



Dirt cheap backup: Why Finland's installation of the world's 1st sand battery may be a game-changer

Sand batteries can ensure round-the-year availability of clean energy

NEXT NEWS >

By Seema Prasad
Published: Saturday 18 March 2023

Context: Finland has installed the **world's first sand battery** that can store heat from renewable energy sources for months.

- The battery, **made of sand collected from construction sites,** can solve the problem of round-the-year energy supply, a known limitation of renewable energy sources that can be harnessed intermittently.
- This is a major breakthrough, as heat alone accounts for half of the world's energy use, followed by **transport (30 percent) and electricity (20 percent),** as per intergovernmental organisation International Energy Agency (IEA).
- Currently, 80 percent of the world's energy comes from **dirty fossil fuels.**

Key Points

- **Sand can be heated up to 600 degrees Celsius (°C),** whereas water starts to boil at 100°C. It also has low heat conductivity, which reduces energy loss..
- The storage system has **three main components:** the sand silo, an electrical air heater and an air-to-water heat exchanger.
- For charging the sand silo, air is heated to 600°C in the **electrical air heater.**
- The hot air is then circulated inside the **silo using a heat-exchange pipe and blowers to raise the temperature** of the sand at the silo's core to 600°C.
- When the storage enters the discharging stage, the **blowers are used to pump air** into the pipe inside the sand silo.
- Once the air reaches 200°C, it is transferred to the **air-to-water heat exchanger,** where it is used to boil water. It is then sent to the heating network.
- The storage system **requires electricity** at all times.
- It is **needed to charge the battery,** monitor the temperature during standby and run the blowers when the battery is used.
- 1,000 times more power is discharged as heat than is used as electricity.

TIMES OF INDIA

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COLOUR- CODED WEATHER WARNING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

Orange Alert Today As Rain And Thunderstorms Likely

Maximum Temperature Falls, Air Quality Remains 'Moderate'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Parts of the city received hailstorms along with rain on Sunday morning, which is likely to continue on Monday as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert, urging people to be prepared for intense weather activity.

On Sunday, the city's base station, Safdarjung, recorded very light rainfall of 0.8 mm, against 2.9 mm a day earlier. However, between 8.30am and 5.30pm on Sunday, Palam and Ayanagar saw hailstorms and intense rain activity. Palam recorded 30.4 mm of rainfall, while Ayanagar recorded 39.6 mm of rainfall.

The maximum temperature was recorded at 28 degrees Celsius on Sunday, three notches below normal, against 25.3 degrees a day earlier. The minimum temperature was recorded at 15.4 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal, against 18.2 degrees a day earlier.

According to the weather department, the city is likely to see rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds on Monday as well. The maximum and minimum temperatures on Monday are likely to hover around 26 and 16 degrees Celsius.

"On Sunday, hailstorms were reported in Palam and Ayanagar around 3am. For Monday, we have issued an orange alert. There is a possibility of hailstorms along with thunderstorms and light to moderate rain in different parts of the city on Monday as well. From Tuesday, March 21, the rain and thunder activity will decrease," said Kuldeep Srivastava, weather scientist, IMD.

Meanwhile, the city's air quality continued to be 'moderate'. The air quality index at 7pm on Sunday, on a scale of 0 to 500, was 170, against 184 a day earlier.

Anindya Chattopadhyay



On Sunday, hailstorms were reported in Palam and Ayanagar



Context: Parts of the city received hailstorms along with rain on Sunday morning, which is likely to continue as the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has issued an **orange alert**, urging people to be prepared for intense weather activity.

Colour-coded weather warning

- **About**: These are issued by the **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** for explaining the severity of the weather phenomena which has the potential to cause damage, widespread disruption or danger to life.
  - These alerts are also **issued during floods,** depending on the amount of water rising above land/in a river as a result of torrential rainfall. Warnings are updated daily.
- **4 colour codes:**
  - **Green (All is well):** No advisory is issued.
  - **Yellow (Be Aware)**: Yellow indicates **severely bad weather** spanning several days. It also suggests that the weather could change for the worse, disrupting day-to-day activities.
  - **Orange/Amber (Be prepared)**: The orange alert is issued as a warning of **extremely bad weather** with the potential of disruption in commute with road and rail closures, and interruption of power supply.
  - **Red (Take Action)**: When **extremely bad weather** conditions are certainly going to disrupt travel and power and have significant risks to life, the red alert is issued.

THE HINDU

Page 4

SANGITA KALANIDHI AWARD

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

Sangita Kalanidhi award 2023 goes to Bombay Jayashri

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI



Bombay Jayashri

Carnatic vocalist Bombay Jayashri has been selected for the Sangita Kalanidhi award of the Music Academy for 2023. The Nritya Kalanidhi award for dance will go to Vasanthalakshmi Narasimhachari.

"The executive committee of the Music Academy at its meeting on Sunday, unanimously decided to confer the awards," N. Murali, president of the academy, said.

Talking to *The Hindu* from London, Ms. Jayashri attributed her success in her career and awards to the blessings of her violinist guru, the late Lalgudi G. Jayaraman. "That he was my guru itself was a blessing," she said while acknowledging the support of her parents and family.

Mr. Murali conveyed the message about the award to her in London, and she thanked the academy.

Ms. Jayashri also thanked the musicians who would accompany her in concerts. "Music is a concerted effort and we created music together," she said. "I am also grateful to the followers of my music."

Vasanthalakshmi Narasimhachari excels both in Bharathanatyam and Kuchipudi.

Context: Carnatic vocalist Bombay Jayashri has been selected for the **Sangita Kalanidhi award** of the Music Academy for 2023.

- Jayashri is a **veena player**, dancer and also trained in Hindustani music.
- She is known for her melodic and meditative style of singing and is recognised by a **Padma Shri** from the Indian government.

Sangita Kalanidhi Award

- **About**: It is considered the **highest accolade in the field of Carnatic music.**
- **Origin**: It came into existence in **1942**.
  - Prior to that, a senior musician/expert was invited to preside over the **Music Academy's annual conference.**
  - In 1942, it was decided that the musician so invited would be conferred the title of Sangita Kalanidhi, the award comprising a **gold medal and a birudu patra (citation).**
  - Since 2005, the Sangita Kalanidhi has also received the **MS Subbulakshmi Award** instituted by The Hindu.
- **Nodal Academy**: The award is conferred by the **Madras Music Academy.**
  - It is a landmark institution in the history of the fine arts. It emerged as an offshoot of the **All India Congress Session held in Madras in December 1927.**
  - It was conceived to be the institution that would set the **standard for Carnatic music.**
  - **Awards instituted by it:**
    - Sangita Kalanidhi
    - Sangita Kala Acharya
    - Special Lifetime Achievement awards
    - TTK Award
    - Musicologist Award
    - Nritya Kalanidhi Award
    - Natya Kala Acharya Award
    - Papa KS Venkataramiah Award
    - Indira Sivasailam Endowment Concert and Medal

Carnatic music

- **About**: It is a system of music commonly **associated with southern India** including the states Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, but **also practised in Sri Lanka.**
- **Origin**: It is **one of two main genres of Indian classical music** that evolved from ancient Hindu traditions, the other genre being Hindustani music, which emerged as a distinct form because of **Persian and Islamic influences** in northern India.

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