

1. Amendment to the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020



Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: The Government of India has introduced two changes to the prevailing power tariff system, through an amendment to the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020.

More on the Topic:

- **Details of the Amendments:**
- **Introduction of Time of Day (ToD) Tariff:**
- Rather than being charged for electricity at the same rate at all times of the day, the price you pay for electricity will vary according to the time of day.
- Under the ToD Tariff system, Tariff during solar hours (duration of eight hours in a day as specified by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission) of the day shall be 10%-20% less than the normal tariff, while the tariff during peak hours will be 10 to 20 percent higher.
- ToD tariff would be applicable for Commercial and Industrial consumers having Maximum demand of 10 KW and above, from 1st April, 2024 and for all other consumers except agricultural consumers, latest from 1st April, 2025.
- Time of Day tariff shall be made **effective immediately after installation of smart meters**, for the consumers with smart meters.

Benefits of TOD tariff:

- Time of Day (TOD) tariff, is recognized globally across electricity industries, as an important Demand Side Management (DSM) measure which is used as a means of

incentivizing consumers to shift a portion of their loads from peak times to off-peak times, thereby improving the system load factor by reducing the demand on the system during peak period.

- Various statutory provisions already exist to enable and promote implementation of ToD tariff (i.e. Tariff Policy, 2016, Electricity Act, 2003 and National Electricity Policy, 2005).

Amendment made in smart metering provision:

- Government has also simplified the rules for smart metering. To avoid inconvenience / harassment of the consumers, **the existing penalties for increase in consumer's demand beyond the maximum sanctioned load / demand have been reduced.**
- As per the amendment in metering provision, post installation of a smart meter, no penal charges will be imposed on a consumer based on maximum demand recorded by the smart meter for the period before installation date.
- Load revision procedure has also been rationalised in a way that maximum demand shall be revised upwards only if sanctioned load has been exceeded at least three times in a financial year.
- Moreover, **smart meters shall be read remotely at least once in a day and the data shall be shared with Consumers** in order to enable them to take informed decision about consumption of electricity.

Source: Indian Express

2. India Egypt Relations



Topic:
International
Relations



In News: Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded his two-day State visit to Egypt.

More on the Topic:

- As the two leaders meet for the second time within six months, their scheduled interaction highlights the growing cooperation between the two countries, especially in recent years.
- While Delhi seeks to consolidate its position in the Arab world with Cairo's help, the latter wants India to expand its trade and investments in the country to help deal with its ongoing economic crisis.

How has the relationship between India and Egypt Established?

- Delhi established a bilateral relationship with Cairo just three days after it got Independence on August 15, 1947.
- The friendship was first tested during the 1956 Suez Canal crisis when Nasser nationalised the canal leading Israel, and later France and Britain, to attack Egypt.
- India condemned the attack on Egypt during the 1956 Suez Crisis and tried to mediate
- Both countries were founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in 1961.

Economic Relations:

- The India-Egypt Bilateral Trade Agreement has been in operation since March 1978 and is based on the Most Favoured Nation clause. Bilateral trade has expanded rapidly in FY2021-22, amounting to US\$ 7.26 billion registering a 75% increase compared to FY 2020-21.
- India's exports to Egypt during this period amounted to US\$ 3.74 billion. Egypt's exports to India have touched US\$ 3.52 billion.
- According to the Egyptian Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), **India was the 6th most important trading partner for Egypt in FY2021-22.**
- India imports Mineral Oil/Petroleum, Fertilizers, Inorganic Chemicals and Cotton.
- Egypt seeks Indian investments in infrastructure projects, and **over 50 Indian companies have already invested in Egypt.**

Aid During Crisis:

- Egypt has faced economic challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on its food supply and foreign exchange reserves.
- India has provided assistance by allowing wheat shipments to Egypt.

Cultural Relationship:

- The **Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture (MACIC)** was set up in Cairo in 1992 to **promote cultural cooperation** between the two countries, through the implementation of the **Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP)**.
- The **'India by the Nile' (IBN) annual cultural festival** has emerged as the largest foreign festival in Egypt.

Defence Relations:



- Egypt and India enjoy cordial defence relationship. There was close cooperation between the Air Forces, with **joint development of a fighter aircraft in 1960s**. Egypt also share a common vision on Terrorism.

Challenges in the India Egypt Relations:

- **Egypt is facing domestic economic instability.** If the economic instability persists over time there are chances that it will lead to mass discontent and movement similar to 2011 revolution. A new regime (like that came to power in 2013) may not be in India's strategic interests.
- **China and Egypt is getting closer.** It might affect India's needs adversely.

Conclusion:

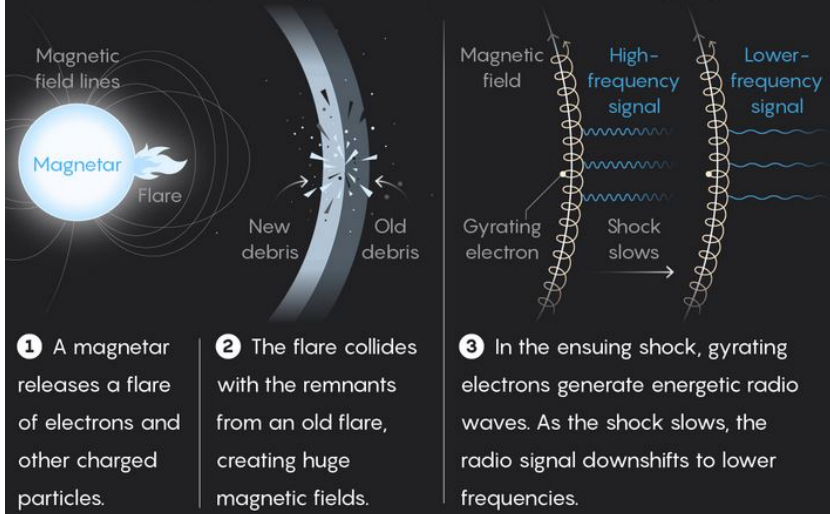
- In conclusion, the India-Egypt relations have been significantly influenced by their shared commitment to the principles of the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**.
- As active members of NAM, both countries have advocated for global peace, sovereignty, and development.
- In the present dynamics, the bilateral cooperation between India and Egypt continues to evolve, addressing contemporary challenges such as **regional security, counterterrorism, and sustainable development.**
- As NAM continues to provide a platform for collaboration, India and Egypt's partnership within this framework holds **immense potential for shaping a multipolar world order based on mutual cooperation and collective prosperity.**

Source: IE

3. Fast Radio (FRBs)

How Fast Radio Bursts Work

Fast radio bursts are brief, energetic blips of radio waves that originate far across the universe. At least one repeats, which has added to the challenge of explaining what might be creating them. A new model accounts for past observations and predicts specific features that should be seen going forward.



Topic: Science and Technology

In News: Scientists are studying **Fast radio Bursts** mysterious radio frequency emissions that reach us from distant galaxies.

More on the Topic:

- Fast radio bursts (FRBs) are **brief and intense bursts of radio waves originating from deep space**. They are highly energetic and last for only a few milliseconds.
- Astronomers have speculated that a type of neutron stars – the incredibly dense remnants of exploding stars – called **magnetars could be a likely source of FRBs**.
- Magnetars rotate slowly compared to other neutron stars, so scientists reasoned that it is the objects' ultra-strong magnetic energy rather than their rotation that probably produces the emission of FRBs.
- **Recent findings suggest that FRBs may be triggered by the collision of two neutron stars just before they merge**. This collision releases gravitational waves and FRBs, which can be detected and studied.

Source: Hindu

4. Order of the Nile Award



Topic: Awards and recognitions

In News: The Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was conferred with the highest civilian honour of Egypt, the 'Order of the Nile', by President of Egypt.

More on the Topic:

- Instituted in 1915, the 'Order of the Nile' is conferred upon Heads of state, Crown Princes, and Vice-Presidents who offer Egypt or humanity invaluable services.
- The 'Order of the Nile' is a pure gold collar consisting of three-square gold units comprising Pharaonic symbols.
- These units are connected by a circular gold flower adorned with turquoise and ruby. The first unit symbolizes the protection of the state against evils, the second unit signifies prosperity and happiness brought by the Nile, and the third unit represents wealth and endurance.

About Nile River:

- The River Nile is in Africa.
- It originates in **Burundi, south of the equator**, and flows northward through north eastern Africa, eventually flowing through Egypt and finally draining into the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- The Nile basin is huge and includes parts of Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Congo (Kinshasa), Kenya.
- The Nile River is considered as one of the **longest rivers** in the world.



- The Nile is formed by three principal streams: **the Blue Nile, the Atbara, and the White Nile.**

Source: Indian Express

5.Liberalised Remittances Scheme (LRS)

No to Idling Abroad

Indian residents can send up to \$250,000 overseas in a year through LRS

The RBI circular comes amid the soaring outflows to tap investment opportunities

\$20 billion: LRS remittances in FY22, as against \$13 billion in FY21

\$6 billion: Funds sent overseas during October-December 2022

Some HNIs have accumulated money overseas even without bona fide expenses

While some individuals may have escaped repatriation by investing overseas, this could expose them to newer risks, experts said

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Topic: Government Schemes

In News: LRS allows Indian residents to freely remit up to USD \$250,000 per financial year for current or capital account transactions or a combination of both. Any remittance exceeding this limit requires prior permission from the RBI.

More on the Topic:

- The scheme was introduced by RBI on February 4, 2004.
- The LRS **sets the limit on the amount of money that can be remitted by individuals without requiring specific approvals from regulatory authorities.**
- Only individual Indian residents, including minors, are permitted to remit funds under LRS.
- Corporates, partnership firms, HUF, trusts, etc., are excluded from its ambit.
- There are no restrictions on the frequency of remittances under LRS.
- Once a remittance is made for an amount up to USD 2,50,000 during the financial year, a resident individual would not be eligible to make any further remittances under this scheme.

Source: Business Standard

6. Belize

Topic: Places in News



In News: WHO has announced that Belize's has successfully reduced and eliminated malaria cases.

More on the Topic:

- Malaria is a life-threatening disease transmitted to humans through certain mosquito species.
- The WHO emphasized the lethal nature of malaria, highlighting the significance of Belize's accomplishment in eliminating the disease.
- Belize is the third country to receive malaria-free certification in 2023, following Azerbaijan and Tajikistan.

About Belize:

- It is bounded by Mexico to the north, Guatemala to the west and south, and **the Caribbean Sea to the east.**
- Along the coast of this country, there is **Belize Barrier Reef** which is the second largest barrier reef in the world.
- The reef reserve system designated **UNESCO World Heritage site.**

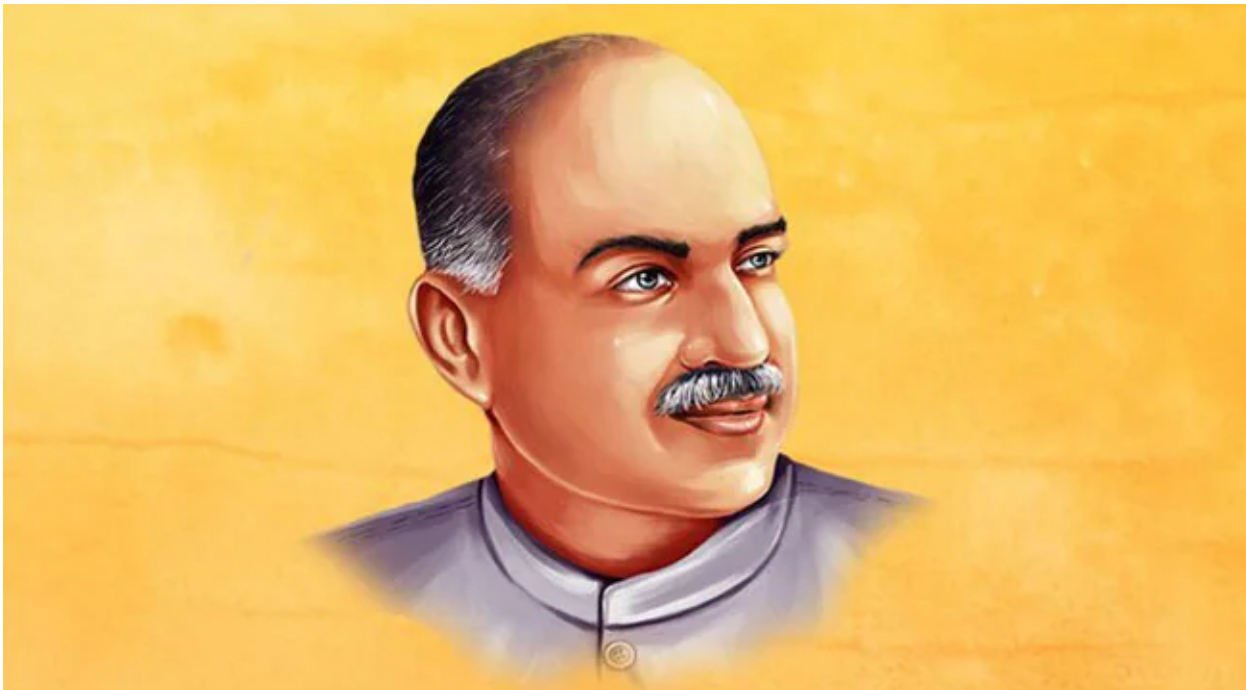
Malaria:

- Malaria is a life-threatening mosquito borne blood disease caused by **plasmodium parasites.**
- It is predominantly found in **the tropical and subtropical areas of Africa, South America as well as Asia.**
- It is preventable as well as curable.

Source: Business Standard



7. Syama Prasad Mookerjee



Topic: Personalities in News

In News: 70th death anniversary of Syama Prasad Mookerjee was observed recently.

More on the Topic:

- Mookerjee, a member of the Hindu Mahasabha, was **inducted into the interim government on August 15, 1947, as the Minister for Industry and Supply.**
- He would keep his ministership for just under three years, resigning in April 1950 over the controversial **Nehru-Liaquat Pact.**
- The Nehru-Liaquat Pact, also known as the Delhi Pact, was **a bilateral agreement signed between India and Pakistan in order to provide a framework for the treatment of minorities in the two countries.**
- It was signed by the two country's prime ministers, Jawaharlal Nehru and Liaquat Ali Khan.

Source: Business Standard
