

Decoding The Hindu Article

Ukraine war has hit India’s bid to move away from coal: FM

‘Price of natural gas — a transition fuel — has gone up and is in short supply’

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

India’s transition away from coal as a fuel will be hampered by the Russia-Ukraine war, according to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

“One calculation which I think we had in our mind was that the transition [away from coal] ... will be enabled my natural gas,” Ms. Sitharaman said in Washington DC, at a roundtable organised by the Atlantic Council, a think-tank.

However, the price of crude has gone up due to the situation in Europe, as has the price of natural gas — a “transition fuel” for India — in addition to it being in short supply, said Ms. Sitharaman, who is in Washington D.C. for the World Bank International Monetary Fund (IMF) spring meetings.

Almost all of the world’s energy needs are met by coal, oil and natural gas, but coal releases almost twice the amount of carbon



Power point: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with IMF Managing Director K. Georgieva in Washington. •PTI

dioxide relative to natural gas, on a kilogram-to-kilogram basis.

U.S. pressure

India has come under pressure from the U.S. to not increase import of energy from Russia, which has been sanctioned by Europe and the U.S. for its invasion of Ukraine. Approximately 1-2% of India’s energy imports come from Russia, as per official U.S. data, and the government has begun buying oil from Moscow at a discounted price.

“The dependence on coal, and the speed with which we want to get out of it, will now be challenged,” she said, adding that, however, India’s commitment with regard to renewable energy would be met.

At the UN Climate Change Conference (the 26th Conference of Parties - COP26), held in Glasgow last November, countries agreed, after pressure from India and China, to “phase down” rather than “phase out” the use of coal. India also increased its focus on a

lack of climate finance from developed countries and asked for \$1 trillion in climate financing over the current decade, in order to meet its climate commitments.

Climate goals

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on November 2 that India would have a renewable energy target of 500 GW by 2030 and meet 50% of its energy needs from renewable sources, by then. It would achieve net zero emissions by 2070, as per Mr. Modi.

“Our commitments to re-fashion our energy basket remains intact,” Ms. Sitharaman said, adding that Mr. Modi’s commitments at COP26 are being “taken seriously” by India, which is moving forward on them. India’s non-fossil energy capacity would reach 500 GW by 2030; it will meet 50% of its electricity requirements with renewable energy by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2070.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Ripple	(Noun): a particular feeling or effect that spreads through someone or something.	लहर

Static News

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly referred to as COP26, was the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference, held at the SEC Centre in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom, from 31 October to 13 November 2021.

The first UN Climate Change Conference was held in 1995 in Berlin.

The United States is the top producing country of natural gas in the world, followed by Russia, Iran, Qatar, China, and Canada.

The largest oil and gas company in the world by revenues is China's China National Petroleum/PetroChina.

The top ten natural gas companies in the world are from the U.S., Russia, Saudi Arabia, Netherlands, China, the U.K., and France.

Grammar

Gerunds are words that are formed with verbs but act as nouns. They're very easy to spot, since every gerund is a verb with "ing" tacked to its tail. There are no exceptions to this rule.

EXAMPLES: Acting is fun.

(The gerund is the subject of the sentence.)

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Vocabulary

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the Static News

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Grammar

Decoding The Hindu Article

PM unveils dairy complex in Gujarat

'Initiatives at Banas Dairy will empower farmers, women and boost rural economy'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated a state-of-the-art dairy complex and potato processing facility at the Banaskantha District Cooperative Milk Federation, Palanpur, popularly known as the Banas Dairy, in Gujarat's Banaskantha district. Mr. Modi said the facilities would boost rural economy and empower farmers.

On the second day of his three-day visit to his home State, Mr. Modi reached Deodar in Banaskantha to open the new plants at Banas Dairy, which is a division of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) under the Government of Gujarat's Ministry of Cooperation. Mr. Modi interacted with women milk suppliers and farmers in a move to reconnect with the masses ahead of the Assembly election in the State later this year.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Banas Dairy in Banaskantha district of Gujarat on Tuesday. •PTI

The new dairy complex has a capacity to process about 30 lakh litres of milk, and produce about 80 tonnes of butter, 20 tonnes of condensed milk, one lakh litres of ice cream and six tonnes of chocolate per day.

The potato processing plant will produce different types of processed potato products such as chips, aloo tikki, fries, and patties, many of which will be exported in other countries.

"The new development

initiatives at Banas Dairy will empower farmers, women, and boost the rural economy. We can experience how cooperative movement can give strength to the Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaign," the Prime Minister said, addressing a huge gathering of women milk suppliers and farmers.

Mr. Modi profusely praised the efforts of local communities and the cooperative dairy sector in creating livelihood opportunities

for locals in the water-starved district in north Gujarat. "I would like to applaud the people of Banaskantha for their hard work and spirit of resilience. The manner in which this district has made a mark in agriculture is commendable. Farmers embraced new technologies, focused on water conservation and the results are for all to see," he tweeted after the event.

During his speech, Mr. Modi said the development taking place in Gujarat fills one with sense of pride as what happens in Gujarat is followed by the people of other States.

He also mentioned his visit to the new command and control centre of the State Education Department on Monday evening.

The centre has connected all schools in the State with real time monitoring of students and teachers, teaching work and attendance from State capital Gandhinagar.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Languish	(Verb): (of a person, animal, or plant) lose or lack vitality; grow weak.	□□□□□□
Profusely	(Adverb): to a great degree; in large amounts.	□□□□□□□ □□

Static News

Amul is an Indian Government dairy cooperative society, based at Anand in Gujarat. Formed in 1946, it is a cooperative brand managed by the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (GCMMF), which today is jointly controlled by 36 lakh (3.6 million) milk producers in Gujarat, and the apex body of 13 district milk unions, spread across 13,000 villages of Gujarat. Amul spurred India's White Revolution, which made the country the world's largest producer of milk and milk products. Tribhuvandas Kishibhai Patel under the guidance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel became the founding chairman of the organization and led it until his retirement in the 70s.

India is the world's largest milk producer, with 22 percent of global production, followed by the United States of America, China, Pakistan and Brazil.

Grammar

An infinitive is a non-finite verb. In other words, it cannot be the main verb in a sentence. An infinitive can be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

AS NOUNS: To dance was her passion.

(The infinitive , "To dance" is the subject of "was" and therefore, the noun)

He likes to hunt.

(The infinitive "to hunt" is the direct object of "likes" and hence, the noun)



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Decoding The Hindu Article

India leader in traditional medicine, says WHO chief

PM lays foundation stone for new centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) at Jamnagar in Gujarat in the presence of Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

A first of its kind, the GCTM will be a global outpost centre for traditional medicine across the world.

Mr. Ghebreyesus described the centre as a truly global project as 107 WHO member countries have their country-specific governmental offices which means the world will come to India for its leadership in the traditional medicines.

He said traditional medicines products abound globally and the centre will go a long way in bringing their

promise to fruition. For many regions of the world, traditional medicine is the first line of treatment, he said.

"The centre will focus on data, innovation and sustainability and will optimise the use of traditional medicine."

"The WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine is a recognition of India's contribution and potential in this field. India takes this partnership as a huge responsibility for serving the entire humanity," Mr. Modi said.

Speaking about the rich legacy of Ayurveda, the Mr. Modi said it goes beyond just healing and treatment, as social health, mental health-happiness, environmental health, sympathy, compassion and productivity are all included.

"Ayurveda is taken as the knowledge of life and is deemed as fifth Veda," he said.

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Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Reverberations	(Noun): a continuing effect; a repercussion.	□□□□□□ □□□□□
Whammy	(Noun): a an event with a powerful and unpleasant effect; a blow.	□□□ □□□□□

Static News

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of India on 25 march 2022 signed an agreement to establish the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine. This global knowledge centre for traditional medicine, supported by an investment of USD 250 million from the Government of India, aims to harness the potential of traditional medicine from across the world through modern science and technology to improve the health of people and the planet. It is in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

The biggest pharmaceutical companies in the world, known as “big pharma”, are American and European. The top five are Pfizer (US), Roche, Novartis (both Swiss), Merck (US) and GlaxoSmithKline (UK). Yet these companies – and the pharmaceutical industry as a whole – rely on global supply chains. And China and India play key roles in the supply of both ingredients and finished drugs.

Grammar

Perfect participle represents an action as completed some time in the past.

The perfect participle indicates completed action. You form the perfect participle by putting the present participle “having” in front of the past participle.



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Decoding The Hindu Article

'Star rating' for packaged food unlikely to help, say experts

They write to Health Minister against the system that is to be adopted by FSSAI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The "health star rating" system that the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) plans to adopt in order to help consumers reduce their intake of unhealthy foods is "not evidence-based" and has failed to alter buyer behaviour, claim over 40 global experts in a letter to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

They argue that "warning labels" instead have been most effective in various countries.

In a meeting on February 15, the FSSAI decided to adopt the "health-star rating system", which gives a product 1/2 a star to 5 stars, in its draft regulations for front of package labelling (FOPL). The decision was based on the recommendations of a study by the IIM-Ahmedabad the regulator had commis-



On the shelf: The FSSAI is planning a health star rating system for packaged food. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

sioned in September 2021. In the same meeting, the regulator decided that FOPL implementation could be made voluntary for a period of four years.

These experts have said the health star rating (HSR) system adopted in countries like Australia and New Zealand has not resulted into any meaningful behaviour change and that eight years after their implementation there is "still no evidence of HSRs having a significant im-

pact on the nutritional quality of people's food and beverage purchases".

The letter written on April 18 has been endorsed by Barry M Popkin, University of North Carolina; Professor Tim Lang, City University of London; Mike Rayner from the University of Oxford; and Frank Hu from Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, among others.

Secondly, the nutrition researchers and academics argue that the HSR system

"misrepresents nutrition science".

They explain that the underlying premise of the HSR is that positive ingredients such as fruits and nuts can offset negative nutrients such as calories, saturated fat, total sugar, sodium to calculate the number of stars ascribed to a product.

"This algorithm of adding and subtracting nutrients does not fit with our understanding of biology. For example, the presence of fruit in a fruit drink juice does not offset the impacts of added sugar in the body. There is no empirical evidence to suggest that adding these ingredients will lessen the negative impact of these foods on the body," the letter asserts. The letter has raised questions over the IIM-Ahmedabad study and called its conclusions "completely wrong from a scientific perspective".

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Anonymity	(Noun): the condition of being anonymous.	□□□□□□

Static News

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is a statutory body established under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. The FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.

Founded: August 2011

Sector: Food safety

Jurisdiction: India

Headquarters: New Delhi

Agency executive: Rita Teotia (Chairperson)

Grammar

A participle is a nonfinite verb form that has some of the characteristics and functions of both verbs and adjectives. Read the following sentence:

Hearing a loud noise, the boy woke up.

Here the word hearing qualifies the noun boy as an adjective does. It is formed from the verb hear and has an object – noise. The word hearing, therefore, has the properties of a verb and an adjective and is called a participle.



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Decoding The Hindu Article

Clijsters bids adieu for third time

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Four-time Grand Slam singles champion Kim Clijsters has retired from professional tennis again.

The 38-year-old, who ended her second retirement in 2019 after a seven-year hiatus, announced on Tuesday that she will “no longer play official tournaments.”

“I can’t wait to see what new adventures will cross my path,” the former No. 1 player wrote on Instagram.

Clijsters, who already is a member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame, won the U.S. Open for the first time in 2005 and walked away from tennis two years later at age 23 shortly before getting married.

The Belgian player then took about two years off while having a daughter but returned and won the 2009 U.S. Open. She won another championship at Flushing



Bye again! The Belgian star has announced that she will “no longer play official tournaments”. •REUTERS

Meadows in 2010, then added an Australian Open title the following season and moved back atop the rankings.

Clijsters, who has three children, left the tour again in 2012. “It’s been on my mind for a while,” Clijsters told WTA media. “I still love to hit the ball. With my schedule three, four days was enough to keep my rhythm

under control but definitely not good enough if I decided to play another tournament. Say, if I picked Australia, it’s three, four weeks. That’s just not possible at this stage in our family life. Life just sort of takes over, right?”

Her last official match was in October when she lost in three sets to Katerina Siniakova in the first round at Indian Wells.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Hiatus	(Noun): a pause or break in continuity in a sequence or activity. .	□□□□

Static News

Kim Antonie Lode Clijsters is a former Belgian professional tennis player. Clijsters has been a world No. 1 in both singles and doubles, having held both rankings simultaneously in 2003. She has won a total of six Grand Slam tournament titles, four in singles and two in doubles.

The Grand Slam in tennis is the achievement of winning all four major championships in one discipline in the same calendar year, also referred to as the "Calendar-year Grand Slam" or "Calendar Slam".

Grammar

Stative verbs are verbs that express a state rather than an action. They usually relate to thoughts, emotions, relationships, senses, states of being and measurements. The stative verbs are all expressing a state: A state of doubting, a state of believing, a state of wanting. These states of being are often temporary.

EXAMPLE:

The doctor disagrees with your analysis.

(Disagree is a stative verb here, as it describes the doctor's state of being – disagreement.)



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'OPEC's share of oil imports steadies after six-year slump'

'Share may dip as Indian refiners buy cheaper Russian oil'

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

OPEC's share of India's oil imports for the FY22 financial year remained almost flat year-on-year, arresting sharp declines over the the past six years, as refiners **snapped up** short-haul crude from West Asia to counter rising global prices.

Total crude imports by the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer rose by an annual 7.2% to 4.26 million barrels per day (bpd) in the year to March 31, ship-tracking data from industry sources showed.

The share of that provided by members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) – mainly from West Asia and



Africa – was 71.6% in FY22, compared with 71.9% in FY21, the data showed.

OPEC oil accounted for about 88% of India's crude imports in FY08.

"OPEC is increasing its production almost every month by about 250,000 bpd, and India is a nearby market for that. At the same time, Indian refiners raised

crude processing to meet rising fuel demand," said Refinitiv analyst Ehsan Ul Haq.

In the next few months, OPEC's share of India's overall imports could decline because refiners in Asia's third-largest economy are buying cheaper Russian oil that has been shunned by some western countries and companies after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Russian oil continued to account for less than 1% of India's crude imports in FY22.

A rally in global oil prices from November pushed Indian refiners to take "full volumes or perhaps more than committed volumes" in their annual contracts with West Asian producers, said Mr. Haq.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Snapped up	(verb): to buy or take (something or someone) quickly or eagerly . .	झपट लेना

Static News

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is an intergovernmental organization of 13 countries. Founded on 14 September 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members, it has since 1965 been headquartered in Vienna, Austria, although Austria is not an OPEC member state.

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria

Founded: September 1960, Baghdad, Iraq

Founders: Juan Pablo Pérez Alfonzo, Abdullah Tariki

Grammar

Stative verbs are verbs that express a state rather than an action. They usually relate to thoughts, emotions, relationships, senses, states of being and measurements. The stative verbs are all expressing a state: A state of doubting, a state of believing, a state of wanting. These states of being are often temporary.

EXAMPLE:

The doctor disagrees with your analysis.

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