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## INDIA SRI LANKA RELATIONS

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "India Sri Lanka Relations". The topic "India Sri Lanka Relations" has relevance in the "International Relations" section of the UPSC CSE exam.

### For Prelims:

Map of Sri Lanka, New initiatives in Sri Lanka

### For Mains:

GS2: India and its neighbourhood

### Why in the news?

Ranil Wickremesinghe, the President of Sri Lanka, arrived in India on July 20 for a formal visit.

### Bilateral Talks Highlights

#### MoUs exchanged and documents handed over:

Sr. No.	MoUs/Agreement exchanged
1.	Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) in the field of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
2.	MoU on cooperation in the field of renewable energy
3.	Memorandum of Cooperation for economic development projects in Trincomalee district of Sri Lanka
4.	Network to Network Agreement between NIPL and Lanka Pay for UPI application acceptance in Sri Lanka
5.	Energy Permit for Sampur Solar Power Project

- The aim of the MoU on Trincomalee is to transform the port and its surrounding regions into a prominent "regional hub" for industry, energy, and renewable energy.
- An important agreement on digital transactions was signed between Lanka Pay and ECI International, facilitating the acceptance of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Sri Lanka.

### Major Points: India-Sri Lanka Economic Partnership Vision

- **Opportunity for Bilateral Economic Partnership:** The rapid economic growth and technological advancement in India, along with Sri Lanka's current phase of stabilisation and economic recovery, create an opportunity for a deeper economic partnership between the two countries.
- **Strengthening Connectivity:** The leaders recognized connectivity as a key enabler and agreed to promote and strengthen it in various dimensions:
- **Maritime Connectivity:** India and Sri Lanka will cooperate in developing ports and logistics infrastructure at Colombo, Trincomalee, and Kankesanthurai to improve regional logistics and shipping. Passenger ferry services between India and Sri Lanka are also planned to be resumed.
- **Land Connectivity:** A feasibility study will be conducted to establish land connectivity between Sri Lanka and India, providing access to the ports of Trincomalee and Colombo, fostering economic growth and strengthening the relationship between the two countries.
- **Air Connectivity:** Efforts to expand flights between Jaffna and Chennai to Colombo and explore connectivity to other destinations in Sri Lanka. Focus on investment and cooperation in civil aviation.
- **Energy and Power Connectivity:** Cooperation in developing renewable energy to achieve Sri Lanka's target of 70% power generation from renewable sources by 2030. Establishment of a high capacity power grid interconnection between India and Sri Lanka for bidirectional electricity trade. Joint exploration and production of hydrocarbons in Sri Lanka's offshore basins.
- **Trade, Economic, and Financial Connectivity:** Facilitating mutual investments, enhancing bilateral trade and investments through agreements, and promoting digital payments for trade transactions.
- **People-to-People Connectivity:** Promotion of India's Buddhist circuit, Ramayana trail, and religious places in Sri Lanka for tourism. Cooperation in education, research, and academic institutes in various fields.

### 13th Amendment Issue

- Indian PM urges Sri Lanka to implement 13th Amendment, announce development assistance for Tamils of Indian origin, and hopes for provincial council elections.
- The Indian Prime Minister urged Sri Lanka to implement the 13th Amendment, which grants greater autonomy to provinces, in order to ensure a "life of respect and dignity" for the Tamil population in the country. The PM also announced a development assistance package for the Tamils of Indian origin who are commemorating the 200th anniversary of their arrival in Sri Lanka.
- Finally, the PM expressed hope that Sri Lanka will hold provincial council elections in the country.

### About 13th Amendment:

- The 13th Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka was passed in 1987 as part of the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord. It created a system of provincial councils with substantial powers over land, police, education, health, agriculture, housing, and finances. The amendment also made Tamil an official language of Sri Lanka, along with Sinhala.



	resource development.
<b>Defence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India and Sri Lanka conduct joint military exercises named 'Mitra Shakti' and a naval exercise named SLINEX.</li> </ul>
<b>Support during crisis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India provided a \$2.4 billion financial assistance package, appointed experts to aid economic recovery, and extended currency swap and credit line for fuel purchases during the recent Sri Lankan crisis.</li> <li>Additionally, several bilateral agreements were signed, including joint development projects and maritime security pacts.</li> </ul>

India and Sri Lanka share a close and stable partnership, and India's role in addressing Sri Lanka's current economic challenges has been significant. Through various forms of support, cooperation, and connectivity initiatives, India continues to play a vital role in promoting sustainable and inclusive growth in Sri Lanka.

**Sources:**

Focus on joint projects during Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe's India visit – The Hindu

**Q1. With reference to major international ports, consider the following pairs:**

- Hambantota – Sri Lanka
- Chabahar – Iran
- Trincomalee – Myanmar
- Bandar Abbas – Pakistan

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- All four

**Answer: (b)**

**Q2. Which of the following countries is frequently in news due to the "13th Amendment"?**

- South Korea
- Sri Lanka
- United States
- France

**Answer: (b)**

**Q3. Analyse India's support, cooperation, and connectivity initiatives in fostering sustainable and inclusive growth in Sri Lanka.**

**Gaurav Nikumbh**

# ROADMAP FOR PROMOTING SOLAR ENERGY FOR UNIVERSAL ENERGY ACCESS

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Roadmap for Promoting Solar Energy for Universal Energy Access". The topic "Roadmap for Promoting Solar Energy for Universal Energy Access" has relevance in the Energy security section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

## **For Prelims:**

*Target Range?*

*Current Scenario of Indian Export?*

## **For Mains:**

*GS 3: Energy security*

*Solar Mini-grids?*

*Key Highlights of the Report?*

*Challenges in Deployment of Solar Energy for Universal Energy Access?*

*Way Forward?*

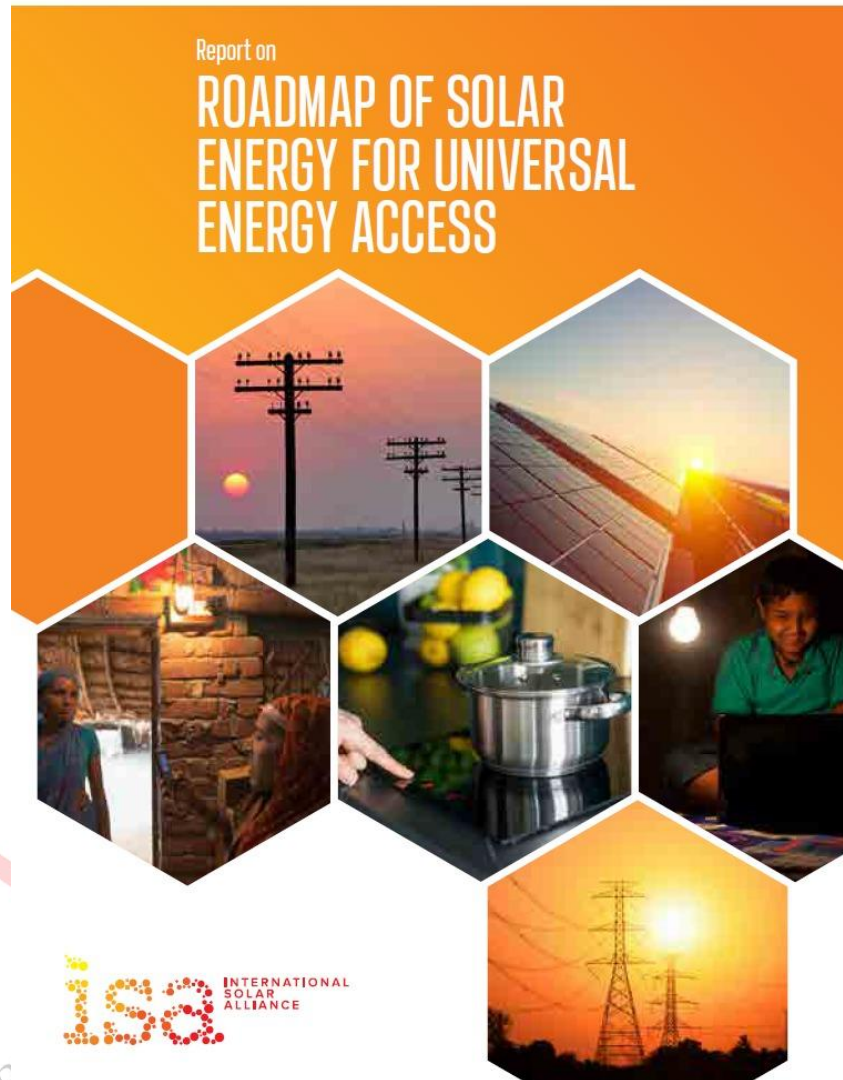
## **Why in the news?**

At an event of the 4th Energy Transition Working Group in Goa today, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, in association with the International Solar Alliance, released a Roadmap of Solar Energy for Universal Energy Access.

## **Key Highlights of the Report:**

1. **Emphasis on Solar Energy:** The report highlights solar energy as a key solution to achieve Universal Energy Access by 2030.
2. **Electrification Methods:** It identifies different methods for electrifying the unelectrified population:
  - Solar-based mini-grids for 59% (396 million people).
  - Grid extensions for 30% (203 million people).
1. Decentralized Renewable Energy solutions for 11% (77 million people).
2. **Investment Requirement:** The report estimates a total investment of around USD 192 billion for accomplishing the electrification goals through various solar energy solutions.
3. **Viability Gap Funding:** The deployment of mini-grids requires viability gap funding of around 50% (USD 48.5 billion).
4. **Challenges and Solutions:** The report emphasizes addressing challenges related to policies, regulations, financial risks, and technical expertise to scale up solar energy solutions successfully.
5. **Increased Investments:** The roadmap advocates for increased investments, ecosystem development, and optimal resource utilization to accelerate universal energy access.
6. **Integration of Solar PV-based Cooking Solutions:** The report emphasizes integrating solar PV-based cooking solutions with electrification initiatives to enhance energy access in remote and underdeveloped areas.





### **Solar Mini-grids:**

- Solar mini-grids are small-scale electricity generation and distribution systems that utilize solar PV technology to generate electricity and store it in batteries.
- They provide reliable and affordable electricity to communities or areas lacking access to the main power grid or experiencing frequent power outages.
- Solar mini-grids can also power electric stoves or other cooking appliances, offering clean cooking solutions.

### **Challenges in Deployment of Solar Energy for Universal Energy Access:**

- Lack of enabling policies and regulations supporting solar energy deployment.
- Challenges in equipment manufacturing, execution, and maintenance.
- Accumulation of dust on solar panels affects their efficiency.
- High financial risks in underdeveloped regions increasing project costs.
- Need for technical and financial expertise for successful implementation and maintenance.

### **International Solar Alliance (ISA):**

- ISA is a collaborative platform co-founded by India and France in 2015 to increase the deployment of solar energy technologies.
- Its primary goal is to facilitate energy access, ensure energy security, and drive energy transition in member countries.
- The Alliance is the nodal agency for implementing One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) that aims to transfer solar power generated in one region to meet electricity demands in others.

### **Government Schemes to Enhance Solar Energy Production in India:**

- International Solar Alliance
- National Solar Mission
- Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM)
- One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)
- Solar Park Scheme
- Rooftop Solar Scheme

### **Way Forward:**

- Assisting access-deficit countries in developing enabling policy and regulatory frameworks.
- Facilitating private-sector participation in energy access projects.
- Exploring innovative financing models like green bonds.
- Hybridization with wind or biomass energy to enhance mini-grid reliability and lower power equipment costs.

### **SOURCE:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1941211>

### **Q.1 Consider the following statements:**

1. The International Solar Alliance was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2015.
2. The Alliance includes all the member countries of the United Nations.

### **Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (a)**

### **Q.2 Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the National Solar Mission?**

1. The National Solar Mission was launched in 2010 by the Government of India with the objective of promoting the use of solar energy in the country.
2. The mission aims to achieve 100 GW (Gigawatt) of solar power capacity by 2022.
3. The National Solar Mission is a part of India's commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to combat climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

4. The mission focuses on the deployment of solar energy technologies for both grid-connected and off-grid applications.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2, and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

**Answer: (d)**

**Q.3 India has immense potential for solar energy though there are regional variations in its developments. Elaborate.**

**Rishabh**

