

THURSDAY  
07.09.2023

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## India

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### Nataraja statue at Bharat Mandapam will represent India's age-old artistry and traditions

It has remarked that the **magnificent Nataraja statue at Bharat Mandapam** brings to life aspects of **India's rich history and culture.**

The **World's largest Nataraja statue** made from '**Ashtadhatu**' (**eight metals**) was installed in front of Bharat Mandapam which is the venue for the **G20 summit** in the **national capital.**

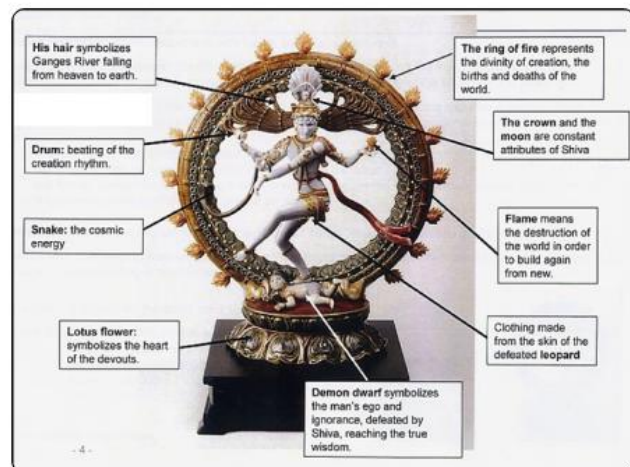
The statue is **27 feet tall** and **weighs around 20 tons** which has been made from **lost wax technique.**

#### About Nataraja sculpture

- The Nataraja sculpture is an **iconic representation of Lord Shiva**, which **holds immense artistic, religious and spiritual significance.**
- In this statue, Lord Shiva is presented **performing the dynamic dance posture called tandava**, which **exudes energy and vitality.**
- The Nataraja statue is **created by the traditional Sthapatis of Swamimalai in the traditional lost wax casting process** following canons and measurements **as mentioned in Silpa Shastra**, which have followed in the **making of Nataraja since the Chola period, i.e., 9th century AD onwards.**

#### The statue is made with eight metals namely:

- **Copper- 87 per cent,**
- **Zinc- 10 per cent,**
- **Lead- 3 per cent,**
- **Tin- trace quantity,**
- **Silver- trace quantity,**
- **Gold- trace quantity,**
- **Mercury- trace quantity,**
- **Iron as support**



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## NATIONAL PAYMENTS CORPORATION OF INDIA (NPCI)

New Payment options on payment platforms **UPI including conversational Transactions.**

**Aim** - To create an inclusive, resilient and sustainable digital payments ecosystem.

It will help UPI achieve the target of **100 billion transactions per month.**

National Payments Corporations of India (NPCI) it has partnered with **Artificial Intelligence 4 (AI4) Bharat** at IIT Madras, to co develop **Hindi & English Payments Language models.**

Launched by **Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**

### **NPCI**

The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** is an initiative taken by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **Indian Bank's Association (IBA)** to operate the **retail payments and settlement systems** in India.

This organisation was **founded in the year 2008** under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.**

NPCI has been incorporated as a '**not for profit**' company under section 8 of **Companies Act 2013.**

### **Products of NPCI**

- Rupay
- National Common Mobility Card
- Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
- Bharat Bill Payment System.
- National Financial Switch (NFS)
- Immediate Payment System (IMPS)
- National Automatic Clearing House (ACH)
- Aadhaar Enabled Payments System (AEPS)
- Operation of Cheque Truncation System





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## Botanical Survey of India gets patent for bamboo based reusable straw

- The **reusable straw** is developed from a **species of endemic bamboo plant** which is found in the **Andamans and Nicobar Islands**
- The bamboo species **Schizostachyum andamanicum** was discovered on Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- Its **economic potential** has received a boost with the granting of the patent for reusable straw and its manufacture.
- This species of bamboo is characterized by a **thin large hollow erect culm (stem) with long internodes** and has potential for developing into a straw.
- It is a novel way to **replace plastic** straws with an organic alternative. This is a **future technology to enhance** the economy of farmers and bamboo growers of the island, if they cultivate this endemic bamboo species at a commercial level

### Patents

A patent is a form of **preservation of intellectual property**. It is an exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product or a process that provides, in general, a new way of doing something, or offers a new technical solution to a problem.

### Criteria

- It should be **novel**.
- Must involve an inventive step (**technical advancement**)
- Capable of industrial application

### Term of Patent

The term of every patent in India is **twenty years** from the date of filing the patent application



## ENVIRONMENT

### Cabinet approves the Scheme Viability Gap Funding for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

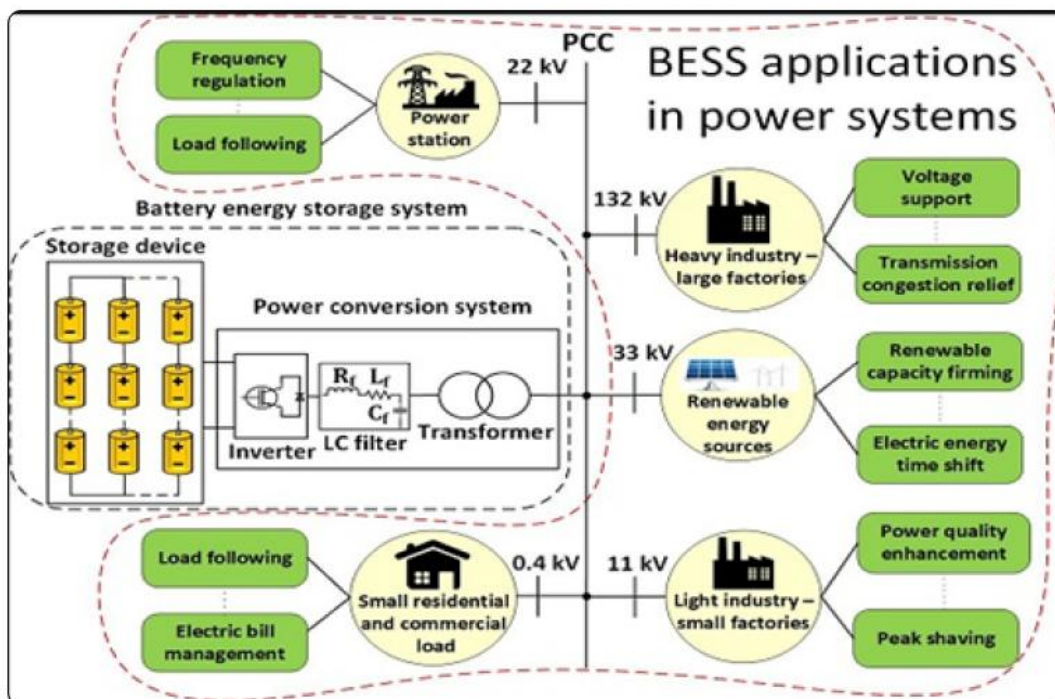
Government Unveils BESS Scheme to Energize the Nation for a Brighter Tomorrow.

Scheme to **reduce the cost of storage for distribution companies and consumers with financial support of up to 40% of the capital cost** as budgetary support in the form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF).

The move is expected to **bring down the cost of battery storage systems** increasing their viability.

Designed to **harness the potential of renewable energy** sources such as **solar and wind power**, the scheme aims to provide **clean, reliable, and affordable electricity** to the citizens.

It signifies the government's **commitment to sustainable energy** solutions.



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## Conference on Transnational Grid Interconnections for One Sun One World One Grid

The conference was organized by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' company under Ministry of Power, Govt. of India.

The vision behind the OSOWOG is 'The Sun Never Sets' and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.

- This is by far **one of the most ambitious schemes** undertaken by any country (India) and is of global significance in terms of **sharing economic benefits**.
- It has been taken up under the technical assistance program of the **World Bank**.
- The OSOWOG plan may also leverage the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, co-founded by India that has **80 countries as members**.
- With India in the middle, **the solar spectrum can easily be divided into two broad zones**, which are:
  - Far **East including** countries like **Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Lao, Cambodia etc.**
  - Far **West covering the Middle East and the Africa Region**.

### Benefits

- "OSOWOG" will enable all nations to reap the **benefit of energy from the sun**.
- This is very relevant to today's context particularly when we are **transitioning to renewable energy**.
- It will make **round-the-clock renewable energy much cheaper**.





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## World

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## ASEAN a key pillar of 'Act East' policy

To discussing with **ASEAN** leaders the future contours of our partnership, which has now entered its fourth decade.

Engagement with ASEAN is an important pillar of **India's 'Act East' policy**.

**The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** entered into last year has injected **new dynamism** in our ties to discuss issues of importance to the **region, including food and energy security, environment, health, and digital transformation.**

### About Act East Policy

- The 'Act East Policy' announced in **November, 2014** is the upgrade of the **"Look East Policy"**.
- It is a **diplomatic initiative to promote economic, strategic and cultural relations** with the vast Asia-Pacific region at different levels.
- In this pursuit, former Prime minister of India P V Narasimha Rao **launched Look East policy in 1992, to give a strategic push to India's engagement with the South-East Asia region**

### Act East:

- Act East Policy focused on ASEAN countries + Economic Integration + **East Asian countries + Security cooperation.**
- Prime minister of India highlighted **4C's of Act East Policy.**

- Culture
- Commerce
- Connectivity
- Capacity building

