



## EMPOWER INDIA—NEWS DIGEST

Volume 4, Number 4, September 15, 2015

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*Inform, Inspire, Impact*

### Gandhi Jayanti Special

Dear IDCA Member or Friend,

Our hearty greetings to all of you on 146<sup>th</sup> Gandhi Jayanti!

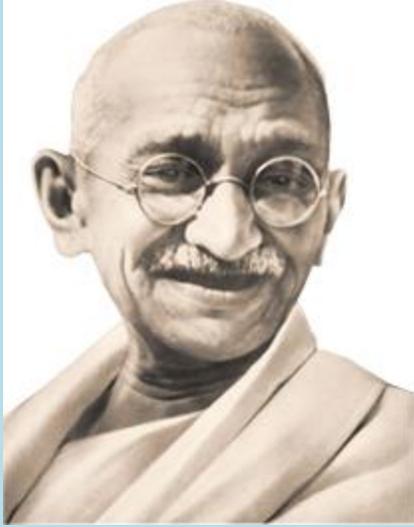
It is time to recommit ourselves to help realize his dream for a free India for the less fortunate. It is also 101<sup>st</sup> year of Gandhiji's return to India from South Africa to lead the movement for a free India. We also salute all those who have committed to serve the masses, post-Independence. Let us all do our bit to serve the nation with our available resources. We are pleased to share our activities over the past month and some useful information for your use.

We are initiating 2 new projects this month and early next month: 1. To publish a book on IDCA-Heroes, Profiles of 25 Change Makers, who have come in contact with IDCA over the last 12 years and who have done more than 10 years of grassroots development work to help eradicate poverty. This will be a useful resource for the budding and aspiring social Entrepreneurs. We hope to complete this project by the end of this year. 2. To launch an IDCA Adopt a Village campaign on October 2, with the help of the IDCA Heroes and others we have come to know over the years.

We recommend you to read Gandhiji's "**India of My Dreams**" A soft copy is available on our website on home page below Gandhiji's image.

We also advise you to read: **Hind Swaraj** by Gandhiji and **Gandhi's Seven Steps for Global Change** by late professor Guy De Mallac.

This past month we organized a Water and Livelihoods Forum. There were 3 speakers: 2 on Water and 1 on Livelihoods. A complete report is posted on Press release page of our website.



## Upcoming IDCA Events:

October 2: Launch of IDCA Adopt a Village Campaign.

*Happiness depends on what we can give, not on what we can get" M. K. Gandhi*

October 17-18, 2015, The 13th International conference

Theme: *Exploring Innovative Strategies for Poverty*

*Eradication and Climate Change Mitigation*

Venue: Illinois Institute of Technology, 201 East Loop Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

Registration: Regular Registration Ends on: September 25. Please Register Today.

You can learn about the upcoming IDCA events at: <http://idc-america.org/events/upcoming-events> . You can support our efforts to serve you all by joining as a member. To learn how you can join us, please click: <http://idc-america.org/membership>

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## News from Members:

**North South Foundation Celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on October 10.**

Please join them. Click below for more information and Registration.

<http://www.northsouth.org/public/main/home.aspx>



## ISB, Hyderabad study on Janyaa's impact

In order to measure the impact of Janyaa program, **Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad**, conducted a study in Feb 2015. During their research they compared the schools where Janyaa was implemented with schools in the same area where Janyaa program was not implemented. The report concluded that :

- Students in Janyaa schools performed around **50% better** than students without Janyaa program.
- **94%** of the students always liked to see the experiments shown by teachers
- **92%** of the students wanted to practice more with the experiments
- Here is a heartwarming video from a father and son on our program:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=et-HUXIQvGU>

## Learning Resources

### Water and Sanitation

Bottling our Water Battling our Environment.

Click below and see an interesting Infographics

<http://www.pelicanwater.com/blog/bottling-our-water-infographic/>

### Ten Top Fresh Water Users in the World

The infographic is available at: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/water-in-water-out/>

### Ground Water Aquifers Depleted

<http://mashable.com/2015/06/16/groundwater-aquifers-depleted/#:eyJzljoiYCIslmkiOiJfdDllejhzZWlmYzZ5cGptMjJ9>

### My friend 'non-toxic' Ganesha

<http://sanitation.indiawaterportal.org/english/node/3910>

Compendium of sanitation success stories from the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

<http://sanitation.indiawaterportal.org/english/node/3365>

Parched lips, barren lands and the scramble for water in Maharashtra

<http://www.indiawaterportal.org/articles/parched-lips-barren-lands-and-scramble-water-maharashtra>

What does being 'water stressed' mean for India and her neighbours?

<http://www.indiawaterportal.org/articles/what-does-being-water-stressed-mean-india-and-her-neighbours>

To pee or not to pee: A question women may not need to ask any more

<http://www.indiawaterportal.org/articles/pee-or-not-pee-question-women-may-not-need-ask-any-more>

### Ancient engineering marvels of Tamil Nadu

<http://www.indiawaterportal.org/articles/ancient-engineering-marvels-eris-tamilnadu>

### Smart Water Technologies

<http://www.indiawaterportal.org/partnership/akvo#akvopedia:Water%20Portal>

Step into the Chand Bawdi, an architectural wonder in Rajasthan

<http://www.indiawaterportal.org/articles/step-chand-bawdi-architectural-wonder-rajasthan>

### Education

#### Forging a New Deal in Education

To solve the global learning crisis, teachers and education systems need to find a new mutual accountability- See more at:



[http://ssir.org/articles/entry/forging\\_a\\_new\\_deal\\_in\\_education?utm\\_source=Enews&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=SSIR\\_Now&utm\\_content=Title#sthash.1dK9l0as.dpuf](http://ssir.org/articles/entry/forging_a_new_deal_in_education?utm_source=Enews&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=SSIR_Now&utm_content=Title#sthash.1dK9l0as.dpuf)

**In a first, two Indian institutes make it to world's top 200**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/In-a-first-two-Indian-institutes-make-it-to-worlds-top-200/articleshow/48964009.cms>

**A Webinar on Effective Use of Technology in the Classroom on September 23**

<https://vts.inxpo.com/scripts/Server.nxp?LASCmd=AI:4;F:QS!10100&ShowKey=27125&partnref=EBLAST>

**Facebook creates free education tools**

<http://www.eclassroomnews.com/2015/09/09/facebook-creates-free-education-tools/?ps=mjain1142@gmail.com-001300000j0bhv-003300000q5wGb>

**Is mobile the key to physics instruction?**

<http://www.eclassroomnews.com/2015/09/09/is-mobile-the-key-to-physics-instruction/?ps=mjain1142@gmail.com-001300000j0bhv-003300000q5wGb>

**15+ great resources for introducing coding to the classroom**

<http://www.eclassroomnews.com/2015/09/04/15-great-resources-for-introducing-coding-to-the-classroom/?ps=mjain1142@gmail.com-001300000j0bhv-003300000q5wGb>

**In India, Teachers Like Pooja Are Making Sure No Students Fall Behind**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/wendy-kopp/indian-teacher-surpasses-b\\_8079042.html?1441373762&ncid=newsltushpmg00000003](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/wendy-kopp/indian-teacher-surpasses-b_8079042.html?1441373762&ncid=newsltushpmg00000003)

**'Education for All' Means Prioritizing the Children Furthest Left Behind**

We need education systems that target our efforts on the most vulnerable children or we will further exacerbate existing inequalities by leaving them behind -- inequalities that will undermine education's contribution to healthier and more peaceful societies.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/josephine-bourne/education-for-all-means-prioritizing-the-children-furthest-left-behind\\_b\\_8079340.html?1441373903&ncid=newsltushpmg00000003](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/josephine-bourne/education-for-all-means-prioritizing-the-children-furthest-left-behind_b_8079340.html?1441373903&ncid=newsltushpmg00000003)

**The 59 Million Children the MDGs Did Not Reach**

An educated society is one that is able to address poverty and inequality. It gives people the tools with which to provide for themselves and their families, it creates economic growth and improves health.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sarah-brown/the-59-million-children-the-mdgs-did-not-reach\\_b\\_8079498.html?1441374038&ncid=newsltushpmg00000003](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sarah-brown/the-59-million-children-the-mdgs-did-not-reach_b_8079498.html?1441374038&ncid=newsltushpmg00000003)

**Send a Child in India to School for a Year**

[https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/education-in-india-1/updates/?subid=63305&rf=progrept1877\\_63305&utm\\_content=Project%20Report%3A%20Non%20For%20Education%20Centers%3A%20Of%20Education%20and%20Hum&utm\\_campaign=Progress%20Report&utm\\_source=email2.globalgiving.org&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/education-in-india-1/updates/?subid=63305&rf=progrept1877_63305&utm_content=Project%20Report%3A%20Non%20For%20Education%20Centers%3A%20Of%20Education%20and%20Hum&utm_campaign=Progress%20Report&utm_source=email2.globalgiving.org&utm_medium=email)

**Governance**

[Governance Now Vol.06 Issue-16 \(16-30 September 2015\)](#)





## Climate Change

### **Railways cannot depend on coal for electricity: Suresh Prabhu : Government will have to conduct energy audits to keep a check over emissions.**

In a bid to reduce the carbon footprint of Indian Railways, Union minister Suresh Prabhu has announced that the Centre might soon set up solar thermal plants on the land owned by the sector.

Railways is one of the largest consumers of coal and electricity in the country and 23 per cent of the ministry's expenditure is on energy—with coal and electricity combined.

The minister announced this while speaking at India Business and Climate Summit 2015, jointly organized by World Resource Institute (WRI) India, Confederation of India Industry (CII) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

"We are studying the feasibility of such projects on our lands. We are considering developing solar power generation under public-private partnership model," said Prabhu.

In August 2014, Railways had proposed to install rooftop solar systems at their buildings and residential colonies and initiated replacement of energy inefficient bulbs with LED lamps in the offices. There were reports about putting solar panels on the roof of railway coaches.

*"There is a need to work towards reducing carbon emissions. We cannot continue to depend on the traditional sources of energy like coal if we have to reduce carbon emissions," said the minister.*

He further added that they would have to find innovative ways and use technology efficiently to do that. **The need to conduct energy audits to keep a control on emissions and the effective use of electricity were also emphasized on.**

Speaking at the meeting, Forbes Marshall director and CII president designate Naushad Forbes said, "Around 42 per cent of India's greenhouse gas emissions come from energy generation and about 76 per cent of that energy is consumed by industrial and commercial users. Accurate measurement is the first step to mitigation."

The article is available at: <http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/railways-can-t-depend-on-coal-for-electricity-suresh-prabhu-50892>

## **The Need for a New Economic System**

**One of the greatest threats to the survival of the human species and the biosphere is catastrophic climate change.** Scientists warn that if the transition to renewable energy does not happen within very few decades, there is a danger that we will reach a tipping point beyond which feedback loops, such as the albedo effect and the methane hydrate feedback loop, will take over and produce an out-of-control and fatal increase in global temperature.

In 2012, the World Bank issued a report warning that without quick action to curb CO2 emissions, global warming is likely to reach 4 degrees C during the 21st century. This is dangerously close to the temperature which initiated the Permian-Triassic extinction event: 6 degrees C above normal. During the Permian-Triassic extinction event, which occurred 252 million years ago, 96% of all marine species were wiped out, as well as 70% of all terrestrial vertebrates.

Is a quick transition to 100 % renewable energy technically possible? The remarkable characteristics of exponential growth can give us hope that it can indeed be done, provided that we make the necessary effort.

On the other hand, fossil fuel companies have a vested interest in monetizing the assets that they own, as Thom Hartmann points out in the video mentioned at the start of this essay. *These considerations point to a battle which will have to be fought by the people of the world who are concerned about the long-term future of human civilization and the biosphere, against the vested interests of our oligarchic rulers. This fight will require wide public discussion of the dangers of runaway climate change. At present, our corporate-controlled mass media hardly mention the long-term dangers, such as the methane hydrate feedback loop, so the battle will have to be fought in the alternative media.*

. The article is available at: <http://www.countercurrents.org/avery050815.htm>

### **Delhi's clean air challenge: It is time to understand what we have done and the actions we need to take urgently and decisively by Sunita Narain, CSE, New Delhi**

The country immediately needs an aggressive roadmap for clean fuel and vehicle technology. This is not acceptable to powerful vehicle manufacturers. Even as oil companies have started the supply of cleaner fuel across north India since April 1, 2015, car companies have succeeded in getting an extension for supply of clean vehicles from the surface transport ministry. Now, the same car companies are busy arguing that they should continue to have the license to pollute. They want 8-10 years to move to the cleaner vehicle technology Europe uses today. These companies need to understand that we have all run out of time and air to breathe.

The other steps are equally urgent, from monitoring air quality to smog alerts, so that we know when it is advisable to take precautions because of bad air. But most critical is the need to massively augment our public transportation systems, from bus and metro to footpaths and cycle tracks, so that we can take a bus and then cross the road or just walk. We also need car restraints. Parking rates and fines for illegal parking need to be increased and then enforced. Today we have a handful of cranes and a sprinkling of traffic police to stop illegal parking. This cannot go on.

In mid-1990s, CSE published a report on air pollution and called it the Delhi Story. It is available at:

[http://cseindia.org/challenge\\_balance/readings/LeapfrogFactor\\_Delhistory.pdf](http://cseindia.org/challenge_balance/readings/LeapfrogFactor_Delhistory.pdf) .

The above article highlights the grave problem that the country as a whole is facing regarding air quality in all major cities and in particular the national capital..

The article is available at: <http://live.downtoearth.org.in/blog/delhi-s-clean-air-challenge-50153>

### **Strengthening Environmental Governance Framework in India. Experience, Examples.**

Further details including videos on the above governance themes are available at:

<http://www.iisd.ca/2015/08/28/paris-knowledge-bridge-unpacking-international-climate-governance/> .

### **India Off-Grid Summit 2015 in New Delhi**

The opportunity of renewable energy and off-grid solutions in India is hugely significant. It can not only help connect rural communities to clean energy, but also address development and emissions reductions challenges in one of the fastest-growing countries in the world. Business, finance and policy leaders came together at the summit to share their visions for this low carbon future.

We must look at the speed, scale and skill for the off-grid energy sector in India as we have even bigger climate & energy efficiency goals lying ahead of us. Off-grid solar solution is a vital part of India's energy mix as making solar affordable will impact the growth of renewable energy in India in coming years.

On the side-lines of the event the "PACEsetter Fund" of US \$ 8 million to accelerate the commercialization of innovative off-grid clean energy solutions was announced. The PACEsetter Fund is the principal funding arm of Promoting Energy Access through Clean Energy (PEACE), an initiative of the Governments of the United States and India to harness commercial enterprise and bring clean energy access to unserved and underserved individuals and communities.

The article is available at:

[http://www.solarquarter.com/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=1336:industry-leaders-back-renewable-energy-initiatives-at-the-climate-group-india-off-grid-energy-summit&Itemid=139](http://www.solarquarter.com/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=1336:industry-leaders-back-renewable-energy-initiatives-at-the-climate-group-india-off-grid-energy-summit&Itemid=139) .

### **Low Cost Financing for Renewable Energy in India**

The Government has taken following major initiatives in coordination with different Ministries/Departments for mobilizing the low cost financing for renewable energy projects which inter-alia includes:

- Low cost borrowing through multi-lateral and bi-lateral agencies i.e. World Bank, Asian Development Bank, KfW Germany, etc.
- Inclusion of Renewable Energy Projects in Priority Sector Lending Norms of Commercial Banks
- Approval for issuance of tax free infrastructure bonds for funding renewable energy projects during the FY 2015-16.

This was stated by Sh. Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal & New and Renewable Energy in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha recently.

The Minister further stated that the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) is providing Renewable Energy loans at the rate of interest which is 0.75% less than the Conventional Generation Projects.

Moreover, there are no restrictions on the loan amount for Renewable Energy Projects and all projects found viable are eligible for funding.

Further, in remote villages, Government is also providing grant through REC for Decentralized Distributed Generation under Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY).

The article is available at:

[http://www.solarquarter.com/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=1334:low-cost-financing-for-renewable-energy&Itemid=139](http://www.solarquarter.com/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=1334:low-cost-financing-for-renewable-energy&Itemid=139)

### **Rooftop PV Revolution in India**

As a part of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's vision of adding 100 GW of solar energy to the Indian grid in next 7 years, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) has allotted year wise target for each state in the country for setting up Rooftop PV. The target for Rooftop PV, under this plan, is 40 GW by 2022 starting with 200 MW in 2015.

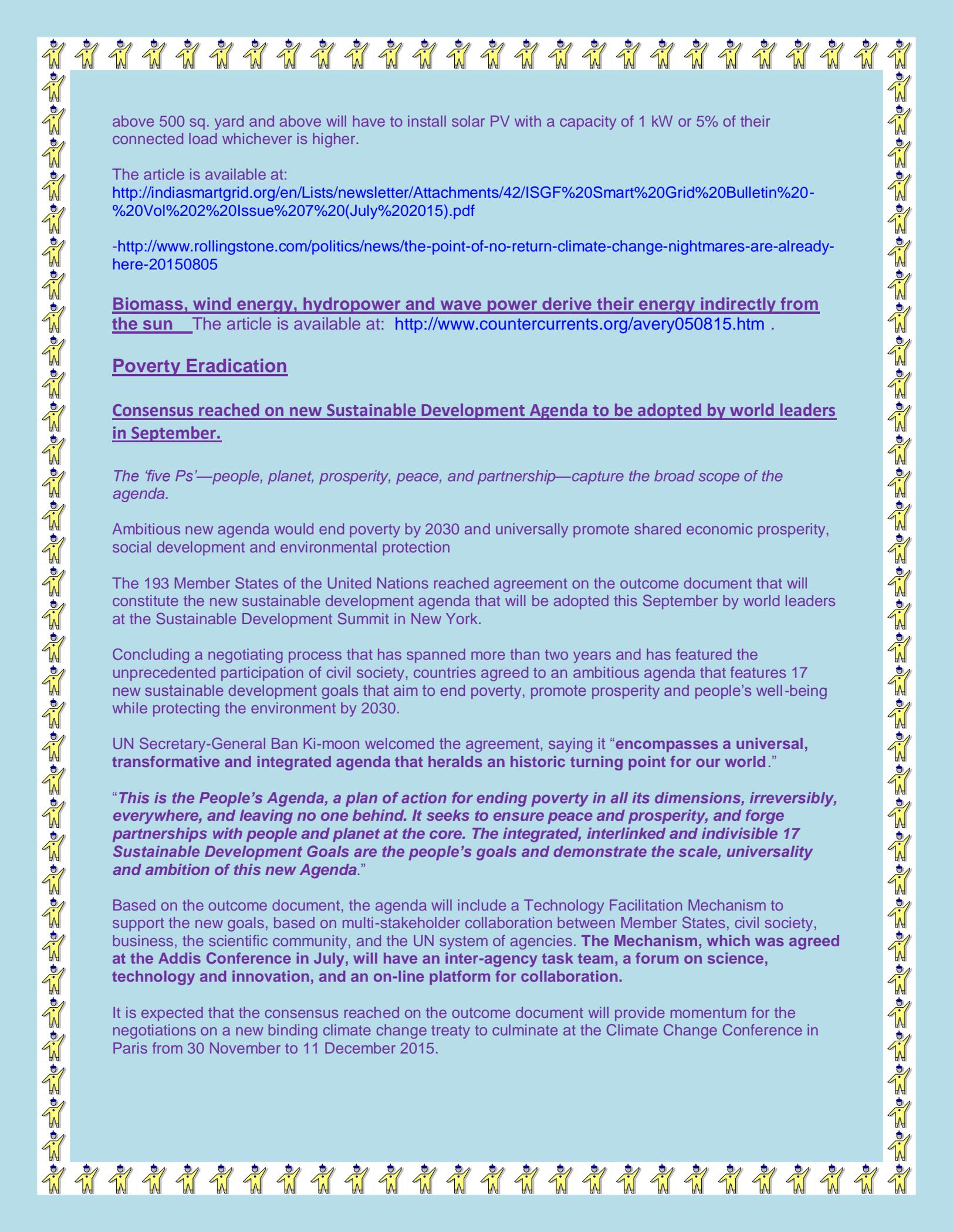
Some of the large states have been allocated tall targets:

- Tamil Nadu : 3500 MW, Gujarat : 3200 MW Rajasthan : 2300 MW
- Uttar Pradesh : 4300 MW Maharashtra : 4700 MW Delhi : 1100 MW

With the price of PV systems steeply going down, it is estimated that the price of electricity from rooftop PV is in the range of Rs. 6-7 per kWh (without storage). High volume consumers and commercial consumers pay more than Rs. 8 per kWh in most states.

While the PV cost will be stable for next 25 years, grid tariff could see steep increase. Government has also advised banks to treat the cost of PV systems as part of the building cost for home loans.

These measures are expected to unleash a rooftop PV revolution in India. Government of Haryana in January 2015 has issued a bold policy mandating rooftop PV. Under this policy all buildings on plot size



above 500 sq. yard and above will have to install solar PV with a capacity of 1 kW or 5% of their connected load whichever is higher.

The article is available at:

[http://indiasmartgrid.org/en/Lists/newsletter/Attachments/42/ISGF%20Smart%20Grid%20Bulletin%20-%20Vol%202%20Issue%207%20\(July%202015\).pdf](http://indiasmartgrid.org/en/Lists/newsletter/Attachments/42/ISGF%20Smart%20Grid%20Bulletin%20-%20Vol%202%20Issue%207%20(July%202015).pdf)

[-http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/the-point-of-no-return-climate-change-nightmares-are-already-here-20150805](http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/the-point-of-no-return-climate-change-nightmares-are-already-here-20150805)

**Biomass, wind energy, hydropower and wave power derive their energy indirectly from the sun** The article is available at: <http://www.countercurrents.org/avery050815.htm> .

## **Poverty Eradication**

**Consensus reached on new Sustainable Development Agenda to be adopted by world leaders in September.**

*The ‘five Ps’—people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership—capture the broad scope of the agenda.*

Ambitious new agenda would end poverty by 2030 and universally promote shared economic prosperity, social development and environmental protection

The 193 Member States of the United Nations reached agreement on the outcome document that will constitute the new sustainable development agenda that will be adopted this September by world leaders at the Sustainable Development Summit in New York.

Concluding a negotiating process that has spanned more than two years and has featured the unprecedented participation of civil society, countries agreed to an ambitious agenda that features 17 new sustainable development goals that aim to end poverty, promote prosperity and people’s well-being while protecting the environment by 2030.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the agreement, saying it “**encompasses a universal, transformative and integrated agenda that heralds an historic turning point for our world.**”

***“This is the People’s Agenda, a plan of action for ending poverty in all its dimensions, irreversibly, everywhere, and leaving no one behind. It seeks to ensure peace and prosperity, and forge partnerships with people and planet at the core. The integrated, interlinked and indivisible 17 Sustainable Development Goals are the people’s goals and demonstrate the scale, universality and ambition of this new Agenda.”***

Based on the outcome document, the agenda will include a Technology Facilitation Mechanism to support the new goals, based on multi-stakeholder collaboration between Member States, civil society, business, the scientific community, and the UN system of agencies. **The Mechanism, which was agreed at the Addis Conference in July, will have an inter-agency task team, a forum on science, technology and innovation, and an on-line platform for collaboration.**

It is expected that the consensus reached on the outcome document will provide momentum for the negotiations on a new binding climate change treaty to culminate at the Climate Change Conference in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015.

Here is the link to the article:

[http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=45317&a=email&utm\\_source=pw\\_email](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=45317&a=email&utm_source=pw_email) .

The draft agreement can be found at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015>

## **Social Entrepreneurship**

**Are you a start-up social entrepreneur with the passion and the drive to create positive social change?** <http://www.unltdindia.org/become-investee/how-apply>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY : RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE AT THE HEART OF DEVELOPMENT? TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES : Findings of an independent, external consultation for INASP

INASP is a UK- based NGO with the mission to put research knowledge at the heart of development. This consultation sought feedback from selected key stakeholders on INASP and also to identify current trends, opportunities and challenges in research and development. It is part of the INASP strategy development process. The consultation interviewed 39 stakeholders, selected by INASP, drawn from 22 countries, representing organizations in different parts of the research and development system. They include researchers, research and program managers, senior university personnel, librarians, journal editors, capacity-builders and donors. They work in universities, government departments, NGOs, think tanks, foundations and other parts of civil society. They include people who know INASP well and others considered by INASP to be thought leaders in the sector but with little or no previous contact with INASP. Despite the breadth of the areas being explored in the consultation and the variety of contexts, some key messages emerged.

Here is the link to the report: <http://www.icccad.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/External-survey-report-for-respondents.pdf> .

### **A New Path for Social Enterprises Through the “Valley of Death”**

Providing a tailored mix of different types of capital and reestablishing a more human-centered sense of accountability is helping social enterprises traverse the proverbial funding gap. - See more at:

[http://ssir.org/articles/entry/a\\_new\\_path\\_for\\_social\\_enterprises\\_through\\_the\\_valley\\_of\\_death?utm\\_source=Enews&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=SSIR\\_Now&utm\\_content=Title#sthash.Qlc1WOyr.dpuf](http://ssir.org/articles/entry/a_new_path_for_social_enterprises_through_the_valley_of_death?utm_source=Enews&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=SSIR_Now&utm_content=Title#sthash.Qlc1WOyr.dpuf)

### **96 Years Ago, This \$310-Billion Man Revealed the Secrets To His Success**

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/96-years-ago-310-billion-man-revealed-secrets-his-success-banayan>

### **THE FAST COMPANY INNOVATION FESTIVAL--November 9-13 / New York City**

This fall, The Fast Company Innovation Festival will bring these extraordinary personalities together for surprising talks, hands-on workshops, unexpected performances and behind-the-scenes tours designed to inspire creativity and innovation.

**For 20 reasons not to miss the Innovation Festival, [click here.](#)**

### **Source of Opportunity**

Sama Group, a social enterprise that connects disadvantaged people with digital work, is expanding its reach to the United States. - See more at:

[http://ssir.org/articles/entry/source\\_of\\_opportunity?utm\\_source=Enews&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=SSIR\\_Now&utm\\_content=Read\\_More#sthash.BlglbeYp.dpuf](http://ssir.org/articles/entry/source_of_opportunity?utm_source=Enews&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=SSIR_Now&utm_content=Read_More#sthash.BlglbeYp.dpuf)

### **Fundraising:**

Power of One! An Interesting blog and video.

<http://www.aydasanver.com/the-power-of-one/>

### **23 Sources for Powerful Fundraising Tips:**

<https://michaelrosensays.wordpress.com/2015/08/12/23-sources-for-powerful-fundraising-tips-that-will-get-results/>

<http://www.vox.com/2015/8/10/9124145/effective-altruism-global-ai>

Why Giving is Good for you: <http://recharity.ca/giving-infographics/>

### **CSR News from India:**

The country's top 75 companies spent more than Rs 4,000 crore towards corporate social responsibility in the last fiscal, the first year after the government mandated bigger companies to give away a part of their profits for social work, early estimates of the government show.

Big CSR spenders include Reliance Industries with Rs 760 crore, ONGC with Rs 495 crore, Infosys with Rs 239 crore, NTPC with Rs 205 crore and TCS with Rs 220 crore, according to company filings.

The government expects total spending in the first year to top Rs 9,000 crore and rise substantially in coming years, a senior government official said. The initial estimates of the government had pegged CSR spend at Rs 15,000 crore in a year.

"The CSR spend picked up late last year after the necessary CSR framework was put in place by companies," the official said. Wipro, ITC, Mahindra & Mahindra and Hindustan Unilever are among the 28 companies that met the mandatory CSR spending norm of at least 2% of their annual average net profits for the preceding three years.

The final numbers for 2014-15 and sector wise data for all companies would be computed only by October end when complete filings are received, the official said.

The article is available at: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends/top-75-companies-spent-rs-4000-crore-on-csr-in-2015/articleshow/48781453.cms> .

### **Our Activities:**

#### **Organized India Water and Livelihoods Forum on August 22, 2015**

Speakers were: Ms. Leah Barnes, Graduate Student De Paul University, Chicago

Dr. Prakasam Tata, president, Bharthi Theertha, Naperville, IL

Mrs. Chandrakala Bhargaw, Founder, Adarsh Mahila griha Udyog, Latur, MS

A full report is posted on the website under Media/press release

<http://idc-america.org/resources/press-release/>

### **Our Outreach Activities:**

**On August 15, attended a reception by CGI on India's Independence**

**On August 16, Attended an Independence Program By FIA-IL in Schaumburg, IL**