

# **The Hindu**

## **Front Page**

### **New opportunities for e-waste recyclers (Page no 1) (GS Paper 3, Environment)**

Over the next five years, Delhi-NCR-headquartered Attero-Recycling, one of India's largest electronic waste management companies, expects to invest close to \$1 billion in expanding their electronic waste recycling facilities. More than 70% of it is for setting up operations in Europe, the U.S. and Indonesia to recycle lithium-ion batteries premised on the increasing share of electric vehicles in future.

Nitin Gupta, cofounder and CEO of the firm, says that while lithium batteries may be the future for the company, the present is hinged on the growing number of e-waste that his factory in Roorkee is processing.

It is due to the mandatory recycling targets set for electronics-goods makers under the Electronic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

From 30% of sales in 2018, firms are expected to recycle 70% of sales by 2023.

## **Editorial**

### **New India needs free and quality higher education (Page no 8) (GS Paper 2, Social Justice)**

At a time when the demand for quality education and research in leading universities in India and advanced nations is on the rise, the staggering tuition fees demanded by universities of repute, besides deterring the meritorious from pursuing their degrees from world-class universities, create compulsions to turn professions into business propositions rather than opportunities to serve and excel.

Carving out a niche in the annals of the global education architecture, New York University's NYU Grossman School of Medicine announced that from the 2021-22 academic year, it will pay the tuition fees for all its students admitted in its MD programme, regardless of their financial needs, thereby becoming the first major American medical school to do so.

In India too, the burden of tuition fees in professional courses is becoming unbearable. Besides, it is causing a serious concern of reducing quality professional education to a commodity rather than the noble service that it ought to be.

Educational loans, even with government collateral guarantee, are no answer, as the mounting debt of educational loans will cripple the economy of development and public welfare.

What we need is a university system that fosters an environment of learning in which world-quality education can be provided without taxing learners with the burden of tuition fees.

## **News**

### **'Wheat export ban not against farmers' (Page 11) (GS Paper 3, Indian Economy)**

The ban on wheat exports has not hurt Indian farmers as has been alleged by some 'ignorant' Opposition leaders, Union Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal, stressing that the government's pro-active decision had saved the country from a 'catastrophic disaster'.

Promising a probe into all wheat export transactions, the Minister said the 'immediate' halt announced last month had ensured there were adequate stocks for domestic consumers and prices had already fallen about ₹ 5 a kilo at the retail level, Mr. Goyal said.

Farmers, he argued, had already sold their produce before the ban, which was reflected in the government's inability to procure more than 6 lakh tonnes of wheat after the ban.

### **U.S. and India working to build on gains from trade forum (Page no 11) (GS Paper 3, Indian Economy)**

With the reappearance of Indian mangoes in the U.S. market, after the November 2021 U.S. India Trade Policy Forum (TPF) helped overcome a pandemic-induced hiatus in mango trade, officials are looking at what can be achieved in this

year's TPF session, likely to be held in November.

For the U.S., exporting ethanol and an associated animal feed ingredient, called DDGS (Distillers' Dried Grains with Solubles) to India in the agricultural goods category is important, a U.S. government official.

As far as ethanol trade is concerned, the U.S. official said they were aware that India had "some sensitives" given it has domestic ethanol producers, and that the U.S. could find a way to supplement these sources, to help with renewable energy goals, even if that meant not fully liberalising the market for ethanol.

India amended the National Policy on Biofuels in May to advance the 20% ethanol-blending target in petrol by five years to 2025-26.

The amended policy also allows the greater use of feedstock for biofuels.

## **World**

### **Ukraine looks to India for help with post-war rebuild (Page 13)**

#### **(GS Paper 3, International Relation)**

Ukraine has approached India to become one of the guarantors of post-war security of the country together with some other countries, diplomatic sources mark 100 days of the war in Ukraine.

"We are also expecting that India will participate actively in post-war construction. We are also expecting more humanitarian aid, medicines, some technical and financial assistance,"

Till date, the total assistance from India both from government and private companies is approximately 230 tonnes. In addition, big volume was given by pharmaceutical companies which are headquartered in India but with offices in Ukraine and eastern Europe. "This is separate and worth about \$7-8 mn."

On the economic impact of the war on Ukraine, diplomatic sources said that in 2022, the GDP may drop by 30-50% and inflation can reach 20%.

Monthly deficit caused by the war is nearly \$5 bn, and the war has damaged or destroyed up to 30% of Ukraine's infrastructure at a cost of \$100 bn.

## **Business**

### **May services PMI hits a 133-month high (Page no. 14)**

#### **(GS Paper 3, Indian Economy)**

The S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index for May signalled that the country's services sector may have recorded its best monthly expansion in more than 11 years, with the survey-based PMI gauge rising to 58.9 last month from April's 57.9.

A reading higher than 50 indicates growth. Services providers reported the quickest increase in business activity since April 2011, with new orders rising at the highest rate since July 2011, even as input cost pressures quickened at the fastest pace since the survey started in December 2005.

May marked the 23rd successive month when firms reported rising input prices, led by higher food, fuel, labour, material, retail and transportation costs, compelling them to raise selling prices at the second-highest rate in almost five years.