



## Technology and Innovation Report 2023: UNCTAD

**For Prelims:** United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Technology and Innovation Report 2023, Green technologies, Electric vehicles, Green Energy Corridor, Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles, International Solar Alliance.

**For Mains:** Reports Released by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, India's Initiatives Related to Green Technologies.

### Why in News?

In its [Technology and Innovation Report 2023](#), the [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#) has stated that developed countries are **benefiting more from green technologies** than **developing countries**, and this could deepen global economic inequality.

### What are the Key Findings and Recommendations of the Report?

#### ▪ Findings:

- **Green technologies** can create a market worth USD 9.5 trillion by 2030, up from **USD 1.5 trillion in 2020**.
  - The total exports of green technologies from developed countries jumped to more than **USD 156 billion in 2021 from about USD 60 billion in 2018**.
  - While exports from developing countries rose to only about **USD 75 billion from USD 57 billion**.
- According to the '[frontier technology readiness index](#)' included in the report, **only a few developing countries** have the capacity to take advantage of frontier technologies such as [blockchain](#), [drones](#), and [solar power](#).
  - Green frontier technologies such as [electric vehicles](#), solar and wind energy, and green hydrogen are expected to reach a market value of **USD 2.1 trillion in 2030**.
- The frontier technology readiness index which has ranked **166 countries**, is **dominated by high-income economies**, notably the **US, Sweden, Singapore, Switzerland, and the Netherlands**.
  - The second quarter of the list includes emerging economies - notably **Brazil - ranked at 40, China at 35, India at 46, the Russian Federation at 31, and South Africa at 56**.
    - Here, India remains the greatest performer by ranking at **67 positions better than expected**.

#### ▪ Recommendations:

- **UNCTAD** calls on governments in **developing countries to align environmental, science, technology, innovation, and industrial policies**.
  - It urges them to **prioritise investment in greener and more complex sectors**, to provide **incentives to shift consumer demand towards greener goods** and to **boost investment** in research and development.
- It recommends that international trade rules permit developing countries to **protect emerging green industries through tariffs, subsidies, and public procurement**, so

that they not only meet local demand but also reach **economies of scale that make exports more competitive.**

- Lastly, UNCTAD urged **developed countries to provide support to their less well-off counterparts** and ensure all nations can participate and take full economic advantage of the green tech revolution.

## What is the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)?

- **UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body** of the [United Nations](#).
  - It was established in **1964** and is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- It aims to promote **sustainable development**, particularly in **developing countries**, through **international trade, investment, finance, and technology transfer**.
- UNCTAD's work focuses on four main areas: **trade and development, investment and enterprise, technology and innovation, and macroeconomics and development policies**.

## What are India's Initiatives Related to Green Technologies?

- [Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana \(SAUBHAGYA\)](#)
- [Green Energy Corridor \(GEC\)](#)
- [National Smart Grid Mission \(NSGM\) and Smart Meter National Programme](#)
- [Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of \(Hybrid &\) Electric Vehicles \(FAME\)](#)
- [International Solar Alliance \(ISA\)](#)

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims

**Q. With reference to the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), which of the following statements is/are correct? (2015)**

1. It is a Public Limited Government Company.
2. It is a Non-Banking Financial Company.

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

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

**Ans: (c)**

### Mains

**Q. "Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is the sine qua non to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". Comment on the progress made in India in this regard. (2018)**

**Source: DTE**

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/technology-and-innovation-report-2023-unctad>