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'Slow capital spending by States, CPSEs is still a worry'

Sharp surge in Centre's capex in past 18 months does not imply higher public sector capex, which is what matters for the economy, point out economists at financial services firm Motilal Oswal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Despite a sharp rise in the Centre's capital spending, underwhelming capex growth in States and a likely drop in investments by central public sector enterprises, could drag India's total public capital expenditure to a multi-year low.

"The sharp surge in the Centre's capex over the past 18 months or so does not imply higher public sector capex, which is what matters for the eco-

Slowing pace

Weak growth in States' capex and a likely drop in investments by CPSEs could drag overall public sector capex to a multi-year low



- Capex likely to contract for third consecutive year for CPSEs
- Expenditure will remain broadly stable for States
- Public sector capex is likely to fall to eight-year low
- Centre's capex had spiked to 2.3% of GDP last year and rose to 2.5% of GDP for the first half of this year

nomy," economists at Motilal Oswal said in a research note. "While the Centre's capex is budgeted to rise in

2022-23, it is likely to contract for the third consecutive year for CPSEs and remain... stable for States,"

they noted. "Public sector capex is likely to fall to an 8-year low of 5.7% of GDP in FY23," they added. Public sector capex was 6% of GDP in FY22.

The Centre's capex had spiked to 2.3% of GDP last year and touched 2.5% for the first half of this year.

ICRA's study on States' finances showed revenue deficits had narrowed sharply for 18 major States so far in FY23, but capital outlays had risen a mere 2.2% in the first half, a far cry from their aim to raise capex by almost 38%.

Topic: Climate Change

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NITI Aayog proposes decarbonising of industrial emissions

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), the technology for decarbonising emissions from high polluting sectors such as steel, cement, oil, gas, petrochemicals, chemicals and fertilizers, has a critical role to play for the country to halve carbon dioxide emissions by 2050, says a report on the policy framework of the CCUS prepared by the NITI Aayog and MN Dastur & Company.

The report, released here on Tuesday by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Suman K. Bery, said the CCUS technology would help in promoting the low carbon-hydrogen economy and in removal of the CO2 stock from the atmosphere.

Mr. Bery said the key challenge would be to reduce the cost of the mechanisms to implement the technology. "NITI Aayog will try to develop a consensus with other Ministries on the matter," he said. "We need a sustainable solution for the decarbonisation of sectors that contribute to 70% of emis-

sion. CCUS has an important and critical role to play in it, especially for India to accomplish net-zero by 2070."

Mr. Bery said CCUS could enable the production of clean products while utilising rich endowments of coal, reducing imports and thus leading to a self-reliant India economy. "CCUS also has an important role to play in enabling sunrise sectors such as coal gasification and the nascent hydrogen economy in India," he added.

Power Secretary Alok Kumar said the focus should be on research and development, particularly on cutting-edge technologies. "NTPC has taken some R&D projects. Ministry has supported it," Mr. Kumar said.

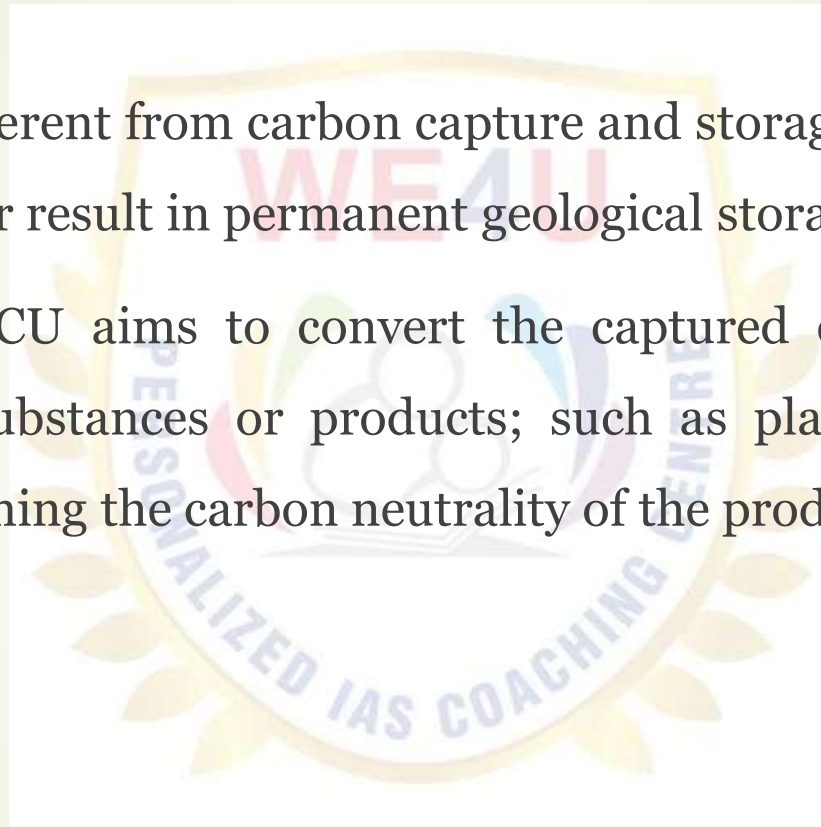
NITI Aayog Member V.K. Saraswat said that through the technology, CO2 coming from various thermal power plants or industrial plants would be captured.

The report said the key to a successful CCUS implementation was to enact a policy framework that supported the creation of sustainable and viable markets for CCUS projects.

Carbon capture and utilization

- Carbon capture and utilization (CCU) is the process of capturing carbon dioxide (CO₂) to be recycled for further usage.
- Carbon capture and utilization may help in significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions from major industrial emitters.

- ▶ CCU is different from carbon capture and storage (CCS) because CCU does not aim nor result in permanent geological storage of carbon dioxide.
- ▶ Instead, CCU aims to convert the captured carbon dioxide into more valuable substances or products; such as plastics, concrete or biofuel; while retaining the carbon neutrality of the production processes.



India and Bangladesh establish contact as more Kuki-Chin refugees are expected to enter Mizoram

Kuki-Chin Refugees

The Kuki-Chin people share ethnic ties with the Mizos and they fled their homes following armed conflicts between the Bangladesh army and an ethnic insurgent group Kuki-Chin National Army (KNA).

India's stand on refugees

- ▶ India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol.
- ▶ All foreign undocumented nationals are governed as per the provisions of The Foreigners Act, of 1946, The Registration of Foreigners Act, of 1939, The Passport (Entry into India) Act, of 1920, and The Citizenship Act, of 1955.

UNDP to help waste segregation workers access govt. schemes

- **The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** is a United Nations' global development network, headquartered in New York City.
- UNDP advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.
- UNDP is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from member nations. The organization operates in 177 countries, where it works with local governments to meet development challenges and develop local capacity.

- UNDP focuses on helping countries build and share solutions in three main areas:
 - Sustainable development
 - Democratic governance and peace building
 - Climate and disaster resilience
- Since 1990, the UNDP has annually published the Human Development Report.

Topic: Wildlife

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The police and forest officials in the Manipur's Ukhrul town have been scanning "gambling dens" following reports of wild animals – dead or alive – being offered as prizes for raffle draws.



Wild wager: Binturong (or bearcat) is among several offerings of exotic meat at Ukhrul's gambling groups. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

- Binturong, (*Arctictis binturong*), also called bear cat or cat bear, catlike omnivore of the civet family (*Viverridae*), found in dense forests of Southeast Asia.
- Its range extends from Nepal, India, and Bhutan southward to the Indonesian islands of Sumatra and Java and eastward to Borneo.
- It has long shaggy hair, tufted ears, and a long, bushy, prehensile tail. The colour generally is black with a sprinkling of whitish hairs.

- The binturong is principally nocturnal and crepuscular (that is, active during twilight).
- It is found most often among the trees, using its prehensile tail as an aid in climbing. It feeds mainly on fruit, such as figs, but it also takes eggs and small animals.
- In some areas binturongs are tamed and have been reported as being affectionate pets.
- Binturongs are classified as a vulnerable species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

THANK YOU

