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1 Amazon Rainforest (Source: The Hindu)

- Lies in the Amazon River Basin (the world's largest river by discharge volume)
- The countries with Amazon Rainforests are: 60% of it is in Brazil, 13% is in Peru, 8% in Bolivia, 7% and 6% respectively in Colombia and Venezuela, and nearly 3% each in Guyana and Suriname, and around 1% in French Guiana and Ecuador.
- The Amazon rainforest, or Amazonia, covers close to 1.3% of the planet's surface and 4.1% of the Earth's land area, but as a biome, the Amazon is home to 10% of the world's wildlife species.



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2 Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme (Source: The Hindu)

Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme

for Grid-Scale Energy Storage



What is VGF?

A government financial support mechanism that provides a grant (viability gap) to make commercially unviable, but socially and strategically important, projects financially viable.

Objective

To catalyse investment in grid-scale Energy Storage Systems (ESS) and accelerate integration of renewable energy into the power grid.

Key Features

- Focus on grid-scale ESS (e.g., battery storage and other approved technologies).
- Provides capital support through VGF to reduce project costs.
- Enables higher integration of solar, wind and other renewable sources.
- Improves grid reliability, flexibility and stability.

Key Details of the Scheme

Approval	Union Cabinet, Nov 2026
Total Outlay	₹14,500 crore
Period	2026–27 to 2030–31
Target Capacity	**92 GWh** (new, yet-to-be-commissioned storage capacity)
Coverage	Supports creation of new capacity equivalent to 170% of the present-day grid-scale storage capacity.
Long-term Goal	Contribute to India's grid-scale ESS requirement of 411 GWh by 2031–32.

Expected Outcomes

- Creation of 92 GWh of fresh energy storage capacity.
- Strengthening of India's renewable energy grid.
- Enhanced power supply reliability and peak management.
- Support for India's clean energy and Net Zero goals.



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3 BRICS Carbon Markets Partnership (Source: The Hindu)

