

## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

### FACEBOOK’S GLOBAL DIGITAL CURRENCY ‘LIBRA’

On June 18, Facebook announced that it is going to launch a global digital currency by the first half of 2020. The currency has been named **Libra**. It will be run by the Libra Association, a Geneva-based entity that has over two dozen founding partners, including Facebook, Mastercard, Visa, Uber and the Vodafone group. Facebook with 2.38 billion active users have real capacity to make it effective.

#### Proposed benefit:

1. Financial inclusion
2. Moving money around globally should be easy and cost-effective
3. More safe
4. Block chain technology

#### Challenges:

1. If Libra becomes somehow globally preferred, ability of central banks and governments will decline.
2. Facebook can easily manipulate demand and supply of this crypto currency.
3. Inflation management measures like repo or other policy rates will decline in having desired effects.
4. Since, such currency can't be backed up by sovereign guarantee or real assets, volatility could be a serious factor.
5. French Finance Minister, Bruno Le Maire, has called on the Group of Seven central bank governors to "prepare a report on Facebook's project for their July meeting. His concerns include *privacy, money laundering and terrorism finance*".
6. Facebook could become a "shadow bank" and that regulators should be on high alert.
7. Shift of power from central banks towards multinational corporations.
8. Facebook can also misuse its massive clout in digital world to open fake accounts or use dead accounts to create various kinds of misuse of libra.

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<u>RELATED ISSUES</u>
1. Block chain technology
2. History of bitcoin
3. India's position on cryptocurrencies

### SUJNI AND KANTHA EMBROIDERY

Kantha is a type of embroidery craft of West Bengal, Tripura and Odisha.

Sujni is common to Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and parts of Uttar Pradesh. The beautiful hand embroidered quilts are made by women using old saris and dhotis.

Celebrated craft revivalist Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay said, "Sometimes the embroidery is worked right through with cotton yarn, the ornamentation being in chain stitch while the background is filled with running stitch in scale pattern. The patterns are scenes from everyday life, from a bride in a palanquin, boys flying kites to peacocks dancing. These scenes lend a local flavour."

<u>RELATED ISSUES</u>
1. Make a list of famous handicrafts from north east and other tribal cultures in India.

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Sujni and kantha embroidery quilts made in Madhubani, Bihar initially used geometrical patterns but later motifs of the Madhubani paintings were embroidered on the quilts.

### CENTRAL ATFM COMPLEX

After successfully implementing the Air Traffic Flow Management System, India has become the seventh country after the US, Europe, Australia, South Africa, Japan, Brazil.

The C-ATFM system is primarily meant to address the balancing of capacity against the demand to achieve optimum utilization of the major resources viz., airport, airspace and aircraft at every Indian airport where there is a capacity constraint.

The C-ATFM system integrates flight data from various subsystems like ATC Automation System, flight updates and flight update messages. The system also displays weather information along with static information about airports, airspaces and air routes. The system processes the demand and capacity information and provides decision-making tools to the ATFM Flow Manager for collaborative decision making and to ensure regulated flow of traffic at each airport in India.

#### RELATED ISSUES

1. Note down roles and functions of ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation)
2. Air space utilisation charges

The C-ATFM system is supported by 36 Flow Management Positions (FMP) at various airports including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad among others. Eight defense airports are also part of the ATFM network which are provided with FMPs.

### TECHNOLOGY FOR CROP DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) with latest technologies are important improvements for better implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, through Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC) has involved 8 agencies/ organizations to carry out pilot studies for Optimization of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) in various States including Andhra Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

The studies used various technologies, including Satellite data, Artificial Intelligence, Modelling tools etc. for reducing the number of CCEs required for insurance unit level for yield estimation. The studies have showed the possibility of reducing the number of CCEs up to 25-70% (depending upon crops and location), through the use of technology. Carrying out large number of CCEs for calculation of yield data vis-à-vis claims at Gram

#### RELATED ISSUES

1. PMFBY- year of start, objectives, eligibility of beneficiaries, challenges of implementation, nodal ministry.

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Panchayat level is a major issue under PMFBY.

### AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN THE COUNTRY

This is important because it's a flagship data.

The total foodgrain production in the country during each of the last three agriculture years (July-June) i.e. from 2015-16 to 2017-18 are given as under:

Year	Production (in million tonnes)
2015-16	251.54
2016-17	275.11
2017-18	285.01

In order to increase production and productivity of agricultural crops in the country, Government of India is implementing through State Governments, several Crop Development Schemes/Programmes such as-

1. National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
2. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
3. Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)
4. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)
5. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana
6. Soil Health Card etc.

Under these Schemes / Programmes, funds are provided to States for implementation of State-specific agricultural strategies including incentives to farmers for use of quality seeds, improve soil health under Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), farm mechanization, etc. The States are also provided support for creation of agricultural infrastructure for optimal use of water and other natural resources.

Further, to achieve higher agricultural productivity, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is conducting basic and strategic research relating to crop improvement, production and protection technologies suitable to different situations including development of location-specific varieties/hybrids and technologies.

#### RELATED ISSUES

1. All mentioned schemes - year of start, objectives, eligibility of beneficiaries, challenges of implementation, nodal ministry. (make a table)
2. Roles and contributions of ICAR in agriculture sector of India.

### PRIME MINISTER'S AWARDS FOR YOGA -2019

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On the occasion of the 2nd International Day of Yoga celebrations at Chandigarh on 21st June, 2016, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had announced the institution of awards for the promotion and development of Yoga. Awardees for 2019 are-

1. Swami Rajarshi Muni of Life Mission(in the category Individual-National), Gujarat
2. Ms. Antonietta Rozzi(in the category Individual-International) of Italy
3. Bihar School of Yoga(in the category Organisation-National), Munger
4. Japan Yoga Niketan(in the category Organisation-International), Japan

The winners will be felicitated with of a Trophy, Certificate and a Cash Award each. The value of each Cash Award would be Rs. 25.00 lakhs.

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

The first International Day of Yoga was observed around the world on *21 June 2015*.

On 11 December 2014, India's Permanent Representative Asoke Mukherji introduced the draft resolution in the United Nations General Assembly. The draft text received broad support from 177 Member States who sponsored the text, which was adopted without a vote. This initiative found support from many global leaders. A total of 177 nations co-sponsored the resolution, which is the highest number of co-sponsors ever for any UNGA resolution of such nature.

When proposing 21 June as the date, Modi said that the date was the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere (shortest in the southern hemisphere), having special significance in many parts of the world. From the perspective of yoga, the summer solstice marks the transition to Dakshinayana. The second full moon after summer solstice is known as Guru Purnima. Shiva, the first yogi (Adi Yogi), is said to have begun imparting the knowledge of yoga to the rest of mankind on this day, and became the first guru (Adi Guru). Dakshinayana is also considered a time when there is natural support for those pursuing spiritual practices.

### OM BIRLA AS SPEAKER OF LOK SABHA

Unanimous election of Shri Om Birla as the Speaker of the seventeenth Lok Sabha. This is in accordance with the highest traditions of the House.

#### *General Powers of Speaker*

1. Presides over Meetings: The Speaker presides over the meetings of the Lok Sabha. He adjourns the House. He has power to suspend its meeting

#### BIHAR SCHOOL OF YOGA, MUNGER

Founded in 1964 by Sri Swami SatyanandaSaraswati. The school is known for Yoga techniques developed through a synthesis of many approaches based on traditional vedantic, tantric and yogic teachings in conjunction with contemporary physical and mental health sciences. Bihar School also guides yoga projects and medical research in association with many reputed hospitals, organisations and establishments. Besides, it has more than 100 publications, many of which are used as referral books in different Yoga courses.

#### RELATED ISSUES

1. Protem Speaker
2. Appointment and removal procedures for Speaker and deputy Speaker as mentioned in the Constitution.

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- in the absence of quo (The quorum is one-tenth of the members of the House.)
2. The Speaker presides over the joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. (In case of disagreement between the two Houses of the Parliament on non-Money Bills, a joint sitting of the two Houses is convened.)
  3. Maintains Discipline: It is the duty of the Speaker to maintain order and discipline in the Lok Sabha. He would not allow any member to behave with indignity or to use unparliamentarily language. He can reprimand any member for using unparliamentarily or defamatory language. He can order for expunging such language from the proceedings of the House. If any member defies the order of the Speaker, the latter can order him to withdraw from the House. He can also suspend the indiscipline member from the remaining part of the session of the House.
  4. Determines Agenda: The order of business is prepared by the Speaker in consultation with the leader of the House. He allots time for debates and selects members to take part in debates. The members are asked to express their views within time limit, fixed by the Speaker. It is within the power of the Speaker to admit or not to admit questions, resolutions and motions. Any question or motion can be disallowed by him.
  5. Certifies a Money Bill: He has power to certify that a bill is a Money Bill or it is not a Money Bill. This authority of the Speaker to certify a Money Bill cannot be questioned anywhere.
  6. Interprets Rules: He interprets the Rules of Procedure of the House and gives his rulings. His ruling is final.
  7. Determines a Defector: According to the 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985, the Speaker will determine whether a member of the Lok Sabha is to be disqualified on the ground of defection.
  8. Heads Parliamentary Committees: The Speaker is the head of several parliamentary committees. He appoints the Chairman of several committees. He himself is also the ex-officio Chairman of several committees of Lok Sabha like the Business Advisory Committee, Rules Committee and the General Purpose Committee. He may issue instructions and directions to these committees for their guidance.
  9. Protects Rights of Members: It is the duty of the Speaker to protect the rights and privileges of the members of the House. As the Speaker is the custodian of the rights and privileges of its members, he would punish any members of the House or outsiders for the breach of these privileges.
  10. Represents the Lok Sabha: He is the spokesman of the Lok Sabha and he represents it in all ceremonial functions.
  11. Communication Link: The Speaker is the main channel of communication between the President and the Lok Sabha.
  12. Casting Vote: Normally, the Speaker does not take part in voting in the House. But in case of a tie, he exercises his right of casting vote. His casting vote would decide the issue. In such a case his vote would normally go in favour of the party to which he belongs. Further, when a resolution for the removal of the Speaker is put to vote in the House, he has the right to cast his vote.

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13. Miscellaneous Functions: The Speaker keeps control over the Secretariat the Lok Sabha. (b) It is his duty to execute the decisions of the Lok Sabha and exercise other powers which may be given to him by the House. The Speaker is the symbol of power and dignity of the Lok Sabha. When he others must take their seats and when he speaks, others must not leave the House.

### **FIFTH MEETING OF GOVERNING COUNCIL OF NITI AAYOG**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi chaired the fifth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog, in Rashtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre in New Delhi. Declared objectives-

1. Common goal of achieving a New India by 2022
2. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and PM Awaas Yojana are illustrations of what the Centre and the States can accomplish together as example of cooperative federalism
3. Ease of living to be provided to each and every Indian by 2022
4. Goal to make India a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2024
5. Newly created Jal Shakti Ministry will help provide an integrated approach to the management of water resources
6. Jal Shakti Ministry has been formed by merging the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
7. Aim is to provide piped water to every rural home by 2024
8. To double incomes of farmers by 2022
9. Focus should be on good governance to improve aspirational districts
10. Target of eliminating TB by 2025
11. Governance system characterized by Performance, Transparency and Delivery

### **GOVERNING COUNCIL OF NITI AAYOG**

The Governing Council of NITI Aayog comprises-

1. Prime Minister of India
2. Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories with Legislatures
3. Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands
4. Four Union Ministers as ex-officio members and three Union Ministers as Special Invitees

#### **Mandate**

It is the premier body tasked with evolving a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of States in shaping the development narrative. The NITI Aayog has been mandated with fostering cooperative federalism through structured support initiatives and

#### **RELATED ISSUES**

1. Various reports released by NITI Ayog
2. NITI Ayog as factor in fiscal federalism, especially in non-coalition single party rule in centre.



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mechanisms with the States on a continuous basis, recognizing that strong States make a strong nation.

### Function of NITI AAYOG

1. To act as a think tank for the government.
2. To develop indicative plans and policies after due consultation with states at the stage of policy formulation itself rather than at the stage of allocation of funds.
3. States along with Central Government form part of Governing Council which is a platform much similar to erstwhile NDC but with a difference that all stakeholders like experts from Niti Aayog, Union government and states governments participate in its meeting for a coordinated strategy of development as equal partners.
4. Does not have the power to allocate plan funds to ministries and states.
5. Follows the 'bottom-up' model, as opposed to the highly centralised Planning Commission.

### MUSLIM WOMEN (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS ON MARRIAGE) BILL, 2019

Implications:

1. The Bill propose to declare the practice of triple talaq as void and illegal.
2. It also makes an offence punishable with imprisonment up to three years and fine.
3. It also provides for payment of subsistence allowance to married Muslim women and dependent children.
4. The Bill also proposes to make the offence cognizable, if information relating to the commission of an offence is given to an officer in charge of a police station by the married Muslim woman upon whom talaq is pronounced or by any person related to her by blood or marriage.
5. The offence is made compoundable with the permission of the Magistrate at the instance of the married Muslim woman upon whom talaq is pronounced.
6. The Bill further provides for hearing the married Muslim woman upon whom talaq is pronounced, before the accused is released on bail by the Magistrate.

#### RELATED ISSUES

1. Shayra Bano vs UOI, 2017  
SC declared triple talaq unconstitutional
2. A-44 of the Constitution and position of Supreme Court on it

### Controversy

1. Penal provision for violation is considered extreme and against minority view.
2. More than 23 Islamic countries banned triple talaq, so nothing unusual.



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- Step towards common civil code.

### KOLHAPURI CHAPPALS TURN EXCLUSIVE WITH GI TAG

- The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 (GI Act) is a sui generis Act of the Parliament of India for protection of geographical indications in India. India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Act to comply with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- The GI tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorised users (or at least those residing inside the geographic territory) are allowed to use the popular product name.
- Darjeeling tea became the first GI tagged product in India, in 2004–05, since then 323 goods had been added to the list as of August 2018.
- According to section 2 (1)(e) of the Act, *Geographical indication* has been defined as "an indication which identifies such goods as agricultural goods, natural goods or manufactured goods as originating, or manufactured in the territory of a country, or a region or locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of such goods is essentially attributable to its geographical origin and in case where such goods are manufactured goods one of the activities of either the production or of processing or preparation of the goods concerned takes place in such territory, region or locality, as the case may be."
- Some of the registered geographical indications includes, agricultural goods like Darjeeling tea, Malabar Pepper, Bangalore Blue Grapes, manufactured goods like Pochampalli Ikat, Kancheepuram Silk, solapurichadars Bagh Prints, Madhubani paintings etc.
- Duration of registered GI tag is for an initial period of ten years, which may be renewed from time to time.

#### RELATED ISSUES

- Main features of TRIPS
- India in "Priority Watch List of USA"
- What is "Compulsory Licensing (CL)" clause in Indian Patent Act?

### AGREEMENTS/MOUS SIGNED DURING VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TO MALDIVES

- MoU for Cooperation in the Field of Hydrography between Indian Navy and Maldives National Defence Force
- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Health
- MoU for the Establishment of Passenger and Cargo Services
- MoU for Cooperation in Customs Capacity Building
- MoU between National Centre for Good Governance

#### RELATED ISSUES

- Operation Cactus
- Challenges in India-Maldives relations

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### 6. Technical Agreement on Sharing White Shipping Information

#### **ENCEPHALITIS**

Encephalitis is an acute inflammation of the brain. Severity is variable. Symptoms may include headache, fever, confusion, a stiff neck, and vomiting. Complications may include seizures, hallucinations, trouble speaking, memory problems, and problems with hearing.

#### **Causes**

1. Viruses such as herpes simplex virus and rabies
2. Bacteria
3. Fungi
4. Parasites
5. Autoimmune diseases
6. In many cases the cause remains unknown

#### **What is acute encephalitis syndrome (AES)**

AES affects central nervous system, mostly in children and young adults. It starts with high fever, then hampers neurological functions causing mental disorientation, seizure, confusion, delirium, coma. The disease outbreak is usually reported during monsoons (June-October). But the incidence is also reported during April-June in Bihar.

This syndrome is very complex. It can be caused by virus, bacteria, fungi, and a range of agents. Japanese encephalitis (JE) virus is the most common cause of AES in India, with union health ministry estimate attributing 5-35 per cent cases due to JE. But the syndrome is also caused by scrub typhus, dengue, mumps, measles, even Nipah or Zika virus. In several cases though the cause of AES remains clinically unidentified.

#### **Litchi toxin**

*Methylene cyclopropyl glycine (MCPG)* which has been known to be a content of litchi fruit has been shown to cause hypoglycaemia in experimental animals, a study stated. Several children in Muzaffarpur who suffer from AES before 2014 have a history of visit to litchi orchards, the study found. The impact is worse on undernourished children who remain hungry for several hours.

AES onset is reported mostly in mornings, especially when a child goes without food the previous night and the sugar level in blood dips further. "A malnourished child has no buffer stock of sugar in liver,". Though eating litchi or its seeds has nothing to do with AES, it is possible that malnourished children who eat unripe or rotten litchi may record an aggravated AES because of toxins (MCPG) present in litchi.

#### **RELATED ISSUES**

1. Differentiate between virus, bacteria and fungi for nature, life cycle and diseases associated with them.

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### CABINET COMMITTEES- 2019

Under the Transaction of Business Rules, the Government has reconstituted Cabinet Committees—

1. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet
2. Cabinet Committee on Accommodation
3. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
4. Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs
5. Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs
6. Cabinet Committee on Security
7. Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth
8. Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development

### Role and functions of Cabinet Committee

1. In parliamentary democracy, a Cabinet Minister with the title of Prime Minister is the Executive head of the Government
2. Head of State is a largely ceremonial monarch or president
3. The Executive branch of the Government has sole authority and responsibility for the daily administration of the State bureaucracy.
4. The Prime Minister selects the team of Ministers in the Cabinet and allocates portfolio
5. In most cases, the Prime Minister sets up different Cabinet Committees with select members of the Cabinet and assigns specific functions to such Cabinet Committees for smooth and convenient functioning of the Government.
6. In all areas delegated to the Cabinet Committees, normally the decision of the Cabinet Committee in question is the decision of the Government of the day
7. However, it is up to the Prime Minister to decide if any issue decided by a Cabinet Committee should be re-opened or discussed in the full Cabinet.
8. In 1961, the Government of India Transaction of Business Rules (TBR), 1961 were framed, which inter-alia prescribed the procedure for “Standing Committees of the Cabinet” as set out in the First Schedule to the TBR, 1961
9. The Prime Minister may, from time to time, amend the Schedule by adding to or reducing the numbers of such Committees or by modifying the functions assigned to them.
10. Every Standing Committee shall consist of such Ministers as the Prime Minister may from time to time specify. Conventionally, while Ministers with Cabinet rank are named as ‘members’ of the Standing Committees of the Cabinet, Ministers of State, irrespective of their status of having ‘Independent Charge’ of a Ministry/Department, and others ‘with rank of’ a Cabinet Minister or Minister of State are named as ‘special invitees’.
11. The Second Schedule to TBR 1961, lists the items of Government business where the full Cabinet, and not any Standing Committee of the Cabinet should take a decision

#### RELATED ISSUES

1. Roles and functions of Consultative Committees of the Parliament.
2. Roles and functions of Parliamentary committees.

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### EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE RISAT-2B

1. RISAT-2B is an indigenously developed Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Imaging Satellite operating in the X-band.
2. The highly agile satellite is capable of operating in different modes including Very High Resolution RADAR imaging modes of 1m x 0.5m resolution and 0.5m x 0.3m resolution.
3. In order to increase the number of imaging opportunities, the satellite is placed in an inclined orbit.
4. As, RISAT-2B is a Radar Imaging satellite; it can be operated effectively during day / night / all weather conditions.
5. Applications of X-Band SAR imagery include Hydrology, Crops, Forestry, Geosciences and Cryosphere. During the time of exigencies, very high resolution, day/night/all-weather imaging capabilities of RISAT-2B could be utilized for Disaster Management Support.

#### RELATED ISSUES

1. Find out the similarities and differences between polar remote sensing satellites and communication satellites? Make a table.

### LAUNCHING OF INDIAN SPACE STATION

1. The activities associated with Space station being an extension of Gaganyaan Programme, will be taken up after the demonstration of Human space flight.
2. Gaganyaan is an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft intended to be the basis of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme.
3. The spacecraft is being designed to carry three people, and a planned upgraded version will be equipped with rendezvous and docking capability.
4. In its maiden crewed mission, Indian Space Research Organisation's largely autonomous 3.7-tonne capsule will orbit the Earth at 400 km (250 mi) altitude for up to seven days with a three-person crew on board.
5. The crewed vehicle is planned to be launched on ISRO's GSLV Mk III in December 2021.
6. One of the most important requirements is the development of a launch vehicle that can carry heavy payloads into space. The spacecraft carrying human beings, called crew module, is likely to weigh in excess of 5 to 6 tonnes.
7. ISRO's main launch vehicle, the PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle), which carried the Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan missions too, can carry payloads that are barely up to 2 tonnes, and that too only to orbits at about 600 km altitude from the Earth's surface. That is why the development of GSLV Mk-III, a launch vehicle with capabilities to deliver much heavier payloads much deeper into space, was necessary.
8. The Environmental Control & Life Support System (ECLSS) is meant to ensure that conditions inside the crew module are suitable for humans to live comfortably.
9. Any manned spacecraft needs to come back. This involves mastering of the highly complicated and dangerous reentry and recovery ability. While reentering Earth's atmosphere, the spacecraft needs to withstand very high temperatures, in excess of several

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thousand degrees, which is created due to friction. Crew module Atmospheric Reentry Experiment (CARE) system has already been tested by ISRO (2014).

### ELECTRICITY GENERATION THROUGH ATOMIC ENERGY

1. The share of atomic energy in the overall electricity generation in the country was about 2.93% in the year 2017-18.
2. Nuclear share has remained around 3% of the total electricity generation in the country. The main reason for low share has been the low installed capacity base. The reasons for low capacity base are:
3. To increase the share of nuclear power generation, the Government has taken several steps to increase the nuclear power capacity and to provide adequate quantity of fuel. These include:-
  - a) Resolution of issues related to Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (CLND) Act & Creation of Indian Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP)
  - b) Accord of administrative approval and financial sanction of - ten (10) indigenous 700 MW Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) to be set up in fleet mode & two (02) units of Light Water Reactors (LWRs) to be set up in cooperation with Russian Federation.
  - c) Amendment of the Atomic Energy Act to enable Joint Ventures of Public Sector Companies to set up nuclear power projects.
  - d) Entering into enabling agreements with foreign countries for nuclear power cooperation including supply of fuel.

#### RELATED ISSUES

1. Read science and tech chapter from India Year Book. Details of Indian nuclear power programme and related technologies are mentioned.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF ECONOMIC SURVEY 2018-19

#### *Shifting gears: Private Investment as the Key Driver of Growth, Jobs, Exports and Demand*

1. Sustained real GDP growth rate of 8% needed for a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25.
2. "Virtuous Cycle" of savings, investment and exports catalyzed and supported by a favorable demographic phase required for sustainable growth.
3. Private investment- key driver for demand, capacity, labor productivity, new technology, creative destruction and job creation.
4. Survey departs from traditional Anglo-Saxon thinking by viewing the economy as being either in a virtuous or a vicious cycle, and thus never in equilibrium.

#### *Policy for Real People, Not Robots: Leveraging the Behavioral Economics of "Nudge"*

1. Decisions by real people deviate from impractical robots theorized in classical economics.
2. Behavioral economics provides insights to 'nudge' people towards desirable behavior.

#### *Key principles of behavioral economics:*

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1. Emphasizing the beneficial social norm.
2. Changing the default option.
3. Repeated reinforcements.
4. Using insights from behavioral economics to create an aspirational agenda for social change:
5. From 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' to 'BADLAV' (Beti Aapki Dhan Lakshmi Aur Vijay Lakshmi).
6. From 'Swachh Bharat' to 'Sundar Bharat'.
7. From 'Give it up' for the LPG subsidy to 'Think about the Subsidy'.
8. From 'Tax evasion' to 'Tax compliance'.

### Nourishing Dwarfs to become Giants: Reorienting policies for MSME Growth

1. Survey focuses on enabling MSMEs to grow for achieving greater profits, job creation and enhanced productivity.
2. Dwarfs (firms with less than 100 workers) despite being more than 10 years old, account for more than 50% of all organized firms in manufacturing by number.
3. Contribution of dwarfs to employment is only 14% and to productivity is a mere 8%.
4. Large firms (more than 100 employees) account for 75% employment and close to 90% of productivity despite accounting for about 15% by number.
5. Deregulating labor law restrictions to create significantly more jobs, as evident from Rajasthan.
6. Re-calibrating Priority Sector Lending (PSL) guidelines for direct credit flow to young firms in high employment elastic sectors.

### Data "Of the People, By the People, For the People"

1. Society's optimal consumption of data is higher than ever given technological advances in gathering and storage of data.
2. As data of societal interest is generated by the people, data can be created as a public good within the legal framework of data privacy.
3. Government must intervene in creating data as a public good, especially of the poor and in social sectors.
4. Merging the distinct datasets held by the Government already would generate multiple benefits.

### Ending Matsyanyaya: How to Ramp up Capacity in the Lower Judiciary

1. Delays in contract enforcement and disposal resolution are arguably now the single biggest hurdle to the ease of doing business and higher GDP growth in India.
2. Around 87.5 per cent of pending cases are in the District and Subordinate courts.
3. 100 per cent clearance rate can be achieved by filling out merely 2279 vacancies in the lower courts and 93 in High Courts.
4. States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal need special attention.
5. Productivity improvements of 25 percent in lower courts, 4 percent in High Courts and 18 percent in Supreme Court can clear backlog.

### How does Policy Uncertainty affect Investment?



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

1. Significant reduction in Economic Policy Uncertainty in India over the last one decade, even when economic policy uncertainty increased in major countries, especially the U.S.
2. Uncertainty dampens investment growth in India for about five quarters.
3. Lower economic policy uncertainty can foster a salutary investment climate.
4. Quality assurance certification of processes in Government departments.

### India's Demography at 2040: Planning Public Good Provision for the 21st Century

1. Sharp slowdown in population growth expected in next 2 decades. Most of India to enjoy demographic dividend while some states will transition to ageing societies by 2030s.
2. National Total Fertility Rate expected to be below replacement rate by 2021.
3. Working age population to grow by roughly 9.7mn per year during 2021-31 and 4.2mn per year during 2031-41.
4. Significant decline to be witnessed in elementary school-going children (5-14 age group) over next two decades.
5. States need to consolidate/merge schools to make them viable rather than build new ones.
6. Policy makers need to prepare for ageing by investing in health care and by increasing the retirement age in a phased manner.

### From Swachh Bharat to Sundar Bharat via Swasth Bharat: An Analysis of the Swachh Bharat Mission

1. Traceable health benefits brought about by Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM).
2. 93.1% of the households have access to toilets.
3. 96.5% of those with access to toilets are using them in rural India.
4. 100% Individual Households Latrine (IHHL) Coverage in 30 states and UTs.
5. Financial savings from a household toilet exceed the financial costs to the household by 1.7 times on average and 2.4 times for poorest households.
6. Environmental and water management issues need to be incorporated in SBM for sustainable improvements in the long-term.

### Enabling Inclusive Growth through Affordable, Reliable and Sustainable Energy

1. 2.5 times increase in per capita energy consumption needed for India to increase its real per capita GDP by \$5000 at 2010 prices, and enter the upper-middle income group.
2. 4 times increase in per capita energy consumption needed for India to achieve 0.8 Human Development Index score.
3. India now stands at 4th in wind power, 5th in solar power and 5th in renewable power installed capacity.
4. Rs 50,000 crore saved and 108.28 million tonnes of CO2 emissions reduced by energy efficiency programmes in India.
5. Share of renewable (excluding hydro above 25 MW) in total electricity generation increased from 6% in 2014-15 to 10% in 2018-19.
6. Thermal power still plays a dominant role at 60% share.
7. Market share of electric cars only 0.06% in India while it is 2% in China and 39% in Norway.
8. Access to fast battery charging facilities needed to increase the market share of electric vehicles.

### Effective Use of Technology for Welfare Schemes – Case of MGNREGS



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

1. Survey says that efficacy of MGNREGS increased with use of technology in streamlining it.
2. Significant reduction in delays in the payment of wages with adoption of NeFMS and DBT in MGNREGS.
3. Demand and supply of work under MGNREGS increased, especially in distressed districts.
4. Vulnerable sections of the society viz. women, SC and ST workforce increased under MGNREGS during economic distress.

### Redesigning a Minimum Wage System in India for Inclusive Growth

1. Survey proposes a well-designed minimum wage system as a potent tool for protecting workers and alleviating poverty.
2. Present minimum wage system in India has 1,915 minimum wages for various scheduled job categories across states.
3. 1 in every 3 wage workers in India not protected by the minimum wage law.
4. Survey supports rationalization of minimum wages as proposed under the Code on Wages Bill.
5. Minimum wages to all employments/workers proposed by the Survey.
6. 'National Floor Minimum Wage' should be notified by the Central Government, varying across five geographical regions.
7. Minimum wages by states should be fixed at levels not lower than the 'floor wage'.
8. Minimum wages can be notified based either on the skills or on geographical region or on both grounds.
9. Survey proposes a simple and enforceable Minimum Wage System using technology.
10. 'National level dashboard' under the Ministry of Labour & Employment for regular notifications on minimum wages, proposed by the Survey.
11. Toll-free number to register grievance on non-payment of the statutory minimum wages.
12. Effective minimum wage policy as an inclusive mechanism for more resilient and sustainable economic development.

### State of the Economy in 2018-19: A Macro View

1. India still the fastest growing major economy in 2018-19.
2. Growth of GDP moderated to 6.8 per cent in 2018-19 from 7.2 per cent in 2017-18.
3. Inflation contained at 3.4 per cent in 2018-19.
4. Non-Performing Assets as percentage of Gross Advances reduced to 10.1 per cent at end December 2018 from 11.5 per cent at end March 2018.
5. Growth in fixed investment picked up from 8.3 per cent in 2016-17 to 9.3 per cent next year and further to 10.0 per cent in 2018-19.
6. Current account deficit manageable at 2.1 percent of GDP.
7. Fiscal deficit of Central Government declined from 3.5 percent of GDP in 2017-18 to 3.4 percent in 2018-19.
8. Prospects of pickup in growth in 2019-20 on the back of further increase in private investment and acceleration in consumption.

### Fiscal Developments

## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

1. FY 2018-19 ended with fiscal deficit at 3.4 per cent of GDP and debt to GDP ratio of 44.5 per cent (Provisional).
2. As per cent of GDP, total Central Government expenditure fell by 0.3 percentage points in 2018-19 PA over 2017-18.
3. 0.4 percentage point reduction in revenue expenditure and 0.1 percentage point increase in capital expenditure.
4. States' own tax and non-tax revenue displays robust growth in 2017-18 RE and envisaged to be maintained in 2018-19 BE.
5. General Government (Centre plus states) on the path of fiscal consolidation and fiscal discipline.
6. The revised fiscal glide path envisages achieving fiscal deficit of 3 per cent of GDP by FY 2020-21 and Central Government debt to 40 per cent of GDP by 2024-25.

### Money Management and Financial Intermediation

1. Banking system improved as NPA ratios declined and credit growth accelerated.
2. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code led to recovery and resolution of significant amount of distressed assets and improved business culture.
3. Till March 31, 2019, the CIRP yielded a resolution of 94 cases involving claims worth INR1,73,359 crore.
4. As on 28 Feb 2019, 6079 cases involving INR2.84 lakh crores have been withdrawn.
5. As per RBI reports, INR50,000 crore received by banks from previously non-performing accounts.
6. Additional INR50,000 crore "upgraded" from non-standard to standard assets.
7. Benchmark policy rate first hiked by 50 bps and later reduced by 75 bps last year.
8. Liquidity conditions remained systematically tight since September 2018 thus impacting the yields on government papers.
9. Financial flows remained constrained because of decline in the equity finance raised from capital markets and stress in the NBFC sector.
10. Capital mobilized through public equity issuance declined by 81 per cent in 2018-19.
11. Credit growth rate y-o-y of the NBFCs declined from 30 per cent in March 2018 to 9 per cent in March 2019.

### Prices and Inflation

1. Headline inflation based on CPI-C continuing on its declining trend for fifth straight financial year remained below 4.0 per cent in the last two years.
2. Food inflation based on Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) also continuing on its declining trend for fifth financial year has remained below 2.0 per cent for the last two consecutive years.
3. CPI-C based core inflation (CPI excluding the food and fuel group) has now started declining since March 2019 after increment during FY 2018-19 as compared to FY 2017-18.
4. Miscellaneous, housing and fuel and light groups are the main contributors of headline inflation based on CPI-C during FY 2018-19 and the importance of services in shaping up headline inflation has increased.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

5. CPI rural inflation declined during FY 2018-19 over FY 2017-18. However, CPI urban inflation increased marginally during FY 2018-19. Many States witnessed fall in CPI inflation during FY 2018-19.

### Sustainable Development and Climate Change

1. India's SDG Index Score ranges between 42 and 69 for States and between 57 and 68 for UTs:
2. Kerala and Himachal Pradesh are the front runners with a score of 69 amongst states.
3. Chandigarh and Puducherry are the front runners with a score of 68 and 65 respectively among the UTs.
4. NamamiGange Mission launched as a key policy priority towards achieving the SDG 6, with a budget outlay of INR. 20,000 crore for the period 2015-2020.
5. For mainstreaming Resource Efficiency approach in the development pathway for achieving SDGs, a national policy on Resource Efficiency should be devised.
6. A comprehensive NCAP launched in 2019 as a pan India time bound strategy for:
7. Prevention, control and abatement of air pollution
8. Augmenting the air quality monitoring network across the country.
9. Achievements in CoP 24 in Katowice, Poland in 2018:
10. Recognition of different starting points for developed and developing countries.
11. Flexibilities for developing countries.
12. Consideration of principles including equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities.
13. Paris Agreement also emphasizes the role of climate finance without which the proposed NDCs would not fructify.
14. Though the international community witnessed various claims by developed countries about climate finance flows, the actual amount of flows is far from these claims.
15. Scale and size of investments required to implement India's NDC requires mobilizing international public finance and private sector resources along with domestic public budgets.

### External Sector

1. As per WTO, World trade growth slowed down to 3 per cent in 2018 from 4.6 per cent in 2017. Reasons:
2. Introduction of new and retaliatory tariff measures.
3. Heightened US-China trade tensions.
4. Weaker global economic growth.
5. Volatility in financial markets (WTO).
6. In Indian rupee terms growth rate of exports increased owing to depreciation of the rupee while that of imports declined in 2018-19.
7. Net capital inflows moderated in April-December of 2018-19 despite robust foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, outweighed by withdrawals under portfolio investment.
8. India's External Debt was US\$ 521.1 billion at end-December 2018, 1.6 per cent lower than its level at end-March 2018.
9. The key external debt indicators reflect that India's external debt is not unsustainable.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

10. The total liabilities-to-GDP ratio, inclusive of both debt and non-debt components, has declined from 43 per cent in 2015 to about 38 per cent at end of 2018.
11. The share of foreign direct investment has risen and that of net portfolio investment fallen in total liabilities, reflecting a transition to more stable sources of funding the current account deficit.
12. The Indian Rupee traded in the range of 65-68 per US\$ in 2017-18 but depreciated to a range of 70-74 in 2018-19.
13. The income terms of trade, a metric that measures the purchasing power to import, has been on a rising trend, possibly because the growth of crude prices has still not exceeded the growth of India's export prices.
14. The exchange rate in 2018-19 has been more volatile than in the previous year, mainly due to volatility in crude prices, but not much due to net portfolio flows.
15. Composition of India's exports and import basket in 2018-19(P):
16. Exports (including re-exports): INR23, 07,663 Cr.
17. Imports: INR35, 94,373 Cr.
18. Top export items continue to be Petroleum products, precious stones, drug formulations, gold and other precious metals.
19. Top import items continue to be Crude petroleum, pearl, precious, semi-precious stones and gold.
20. India's main trading partners continue to be the US, China, Hong Kong, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.
21. India has signed 28 bilateral / multilateral trade agreements with various country/group of countries. In 2018-19,
22. Exports to these countries stood at US\$121.7 billion accounting for 36.9 per cent of India's total exports.
23. Imports from these countries stood at US\$266.9 billion accounting for 52.0 per cent of India's total imports.

### Agriculture and Food Management

1. Agriculture sector in India typically goes through cyclical movement in terms of its growth.
2. Gross Value Added (GVA) in agriculture improved from a negative 0.2 per cent in 2014-15 to 6.3 per cent in 2016-17 but decelerated to 2.9 per cent in 2018-19.
3. Gross Capital Formation (GCF) in agriculture as percentage of GVA marginally declined to 15.2 per cent in 2017-18 as compared to 15.6 per cent in 2016-17.
4. The public sector GCF in agriculture as a percentage of GVA increased to 2.7 per cent in 2016-17 from 2.1 per cent in 2013-14.
5. Women's participation in agriculture increased to 13.9 per cent in 2015-16 from 11.7 per cent in 2005-06 and their concentration is highest (28 per cent) among small and marginal farmers.
6. A shift is seen in the number of operational land holdings and area operated by operational land holdings towards small and marginal farmers.
7. 89% of groundwater extracted is used for irrigation. Hence, focus should shift from land productivity to 'irrigation water productivity'. Thrust should be on micro-irrigation to improve water use efficiency.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

8. Fertilizer response ratio has been declining over time. Organic and natural farming techniques including Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) can improve both water use efficiency and soil fertility.
9. Adopting appropriate technologies through Custom Hiring Centers and implementation of ICT are critical to improve resource-use efficiency among small and marginal farmers.
10. Diversification of livelihoods is critical for inclusive and sustainable development in agriculture and allied sectors. Policies should focus on
11. Dairying as India is the largest producer of milk.
12. Livestock rearing particularly of small ruminants.
13. Fisheries sector, as India is the second largest producer.

### Industry and Infrastructure

1. Overall Index of Eight Core Industries registered a growth rate of 4.3 percent in 2018-19.
2. India's ranking improved by 23 to 77th position in 2018 among 190 countries assessed by the World Bank Doing Business (DB) Report, 2019.
3. Road construction grew @ 30 km per day in 2018-19 compared to 12 km per day in 2014-15.
4. Rail freight and passenger traffic grew by 5.33 per cent and 0.64 per cent respectively in 2018-19 as compared to 2017-18.
5. Total telephone connections in India touched 118.34 crore in 2018-19
6. The installed capacity of electricity has increased to 3, 56,100 MW in 2019 from 3, 44,002 MW in 2018.
7. Public Private Partnerships are quintessential for addressing infrastructure gaps
8. Building sustainable and resilient infrastructure has been given due importance with sector specific flagship programmes such as SAUBHAGYA scheme, PMAY etc
9. Institutional mechanism is needed to deal with time-bound resolution of disputes in infrastructure sector

### Services Sector

1. Services sector (excluding construction) has a share of 54.3 per cent in India's GVA and contributed more than half of GVA growth in 2018-19.
2. The IT-BPM industry grew by 8.4 per cent in 2017-18 to US\$ 167 billion and is estimated to reach US\$ 181 billion in 2018-19.
3. The services sector growth declined marginally to 7.5 per cent in 2018-19 from 8.1 per cent in 2017-18.
4. Accelerated sub-sectors: Financial services, real estate and professional services.
5. Decelerated sub-sectors: Hotels, transport, communication and broadcasting services.
6. Services share in employment is 34 per cent in 2017.
7. Tourism: million foreign tourists received in 2018-19 compared to 10.4 million in 2017-18.
8. Forex earnings from tourism stood at US\$ 27.7 billion in 2018-19 compared to US\$ 28.7 billion in 2017-18.

### Social Infrastructure, Employment and Human Development

1. The public investments in social infrastructure like education, health, housing and connectivity is critical for inclusive development.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

2. Government expenditure (Centre plus States) as a percentage of GDP on
3. Health: increased to 1.5 per cent in 2018-19 from 1.2 per cent in 2014-15.
4. Education: increased from 2.8 per cent to 3 per cent during this period.
5. Substantial progress in both quantitative and qualitative indicators of education is reflected in the improvements in Gross Enrolment Ratios, Gender Parity Indices and learning outcomes at primary school levels.
6. Encouraging Skill Development by: Introduction of the skill vouchers as a financing instrument to enable youth obtain training from any accredited training institutes.
7. Involving industry in setting up of training institutes in PPP mode; in curriculum development; provision of equipment; training of trainers etc.
8. Personnel of Railways and para-military could be roped in for imparting training in difficult terrains.
9. Create a database of Instructors, skill mapping of rural youth by involving local bodies to assess the demand-supply gaps are some of the other initiatives proposed.
10. Net employment generation in the formal sector was higher at 8.15 lakh in March, 2019 as against 4.87 lakh in February, 2018 as per EPFO.
11. Around 1, 90, 000 km of rural roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) since 2014.
12. About 1.54 crore houses completed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) as against a target of 1 crore pucca houses with basic amenities by 31st March, 2019.
13. Accessible, affordable and quality healthcare being provided through National Health Mission and Ayushman Bharat scheme for a healthy India.
14. Alternative healthcare, National AYUSH Mission launched to provide cost effective and equitable AYUSH healthcare throughout the country to address the issue of affordability, by improving access to these services.
15. Employment generation scheme, MGNREGA is prioritized by increasing actual expenditure over the budgetary allocation and an upward trend in budget allocation in the last four years.

### **SPACE TECHNOLOGY: YOUNG SCIENTIST PROGRAMME (YUVIKA-2019)**

ISRO has started an annual program called “Young Scientist Programme (Yuvika-2019), on May 13, 2019. A total of 111 students representing each State and Union Territory of India were brought for fifteen days to four ISRO Centers. The programme was primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications. A special session was also arranged for interaction with eminent space scientists.

### **INVEST INDIA PROGRAMME**

Invest India was formed in 2009 under Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956 for promotion of foreign investment. The current shareholding pattern of Invest India is 51 % of Industry Associations (i.e. 17% each of FICCI, CII & NASSCOM) and the remaining 49% of Central and 19 State Governments.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

As reported by Invest India, it is currently working with 1003 companies, with an indicated investment worth USD 137 Billion and indicated employment of 1,981,147 extending end-to-end facilitation support. Out of these, investments worth USD 23 Billion and 138,083 employment have been realized during September 2014 till date. Invest India has responded to 190,431 business requests during the period from September 2014 till date and is actively working with several Indian States to build capacity and strengthen existing Investment Promotion Agencies as well as bring in global best practices in investment targeting, promotion and facilitation areas.

The projects which are being handled by Invest India, inter-alia, include the following:

1. *Proactive Investor Targeting*: Invest India identifies target companies across focus sectors from target markets looking to initiate investment into India or further expansion in India.
2. *Handholding support*: The provision of high quality services to support investors throughout the investment life cycle is extremely important and Invest India creates vital differentiation and an invaluable service offering of guidance, handholding, problem solving and facilitation for investors.
3. *Bilateral CEO Forums*: Government of India has institutionalized bilateral CEOs forums with various countries to identify new avenues for cooperation and take initiatives to facilitate business links between countries. Invest India takes up the responsibility of acting as the nodal point for investment related issues/ recommendations and help action investment specific resolutions raised at the CEOs Forums.
4. *Country – Sector Outreach*: Invest India proactively contributes to national and regional policy development by planning Country/Sector interactions.
5. *Strategic Investment Research Unit*: It shapes India's investment landscape and drives a step change in the quality and quantity of FDI. The Strategic Investment Research unit not only act as a strong pillar for the core functions of the IPA, like investor targeting and facilitation, but also assist in preparing investment related briefings.
6. *Harnessing Information & Communication Technology for FDI*: Invest India scales up use of technology for investment targeting and facilitation. Using Information and Communication Technology, IPAs are putting in place increasingly sophisticated investor inquiry tracking tools to handle and process such inquiries
7. *Working with State Investment Promotion Agencies*: Invest India plays a central role in ensuring that FDI is on the agenda of all State agencies, State Governments and stakeholders, highlighting the substantial economic and social benefits which can be accrued locally from FDI.
8. **Startups: Startup India** is a flagship initiative of the Government of India, intended to build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and Startups in the country that will drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade with the help of Invest India aims to empower Startups to grow through innovation and design through this initiative.
9. **Accelerating Growth of New India's Innovations (AGNI)**: It aims to support the ongoing efforts to boost the innovation ecosystem in the country by connecting innovators across industry, individuals and the grassroots to the market and helping commercialise their innovative solutions. Invest India provide a platform for innovators to bring their market ready products and solutions to industry thereby helping propel India into a new era of inclusive economic growth.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

10. **India Investment Grid: India Investment Grid (IIG)** is an online platform to showcase investment opportunities in India to global investors. The platform is looked after by Invest India.
11. The efforts of Invest India and measures taken by the Government on FDI policy liberalization along with improvement in ease of doing business climate have resulted in unprecedented growth of total FDI inflows. India has recorded USD 64.38 billion FDI inflow in the year 2018-19 which is an increase of 78.6% over financial year 2013-14 when total FDI inflow was USD 36.05 billion.

### ONLINE SERVICES OF CCTNS

In order to facilitate police in States/Union Territories (UTs) with a common platform for filing reports, collecting and sharing information on crimes and criminals at national level, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has implemented Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS). Against the target of covering 14306 police stations, a total of 14874 police stations have been covered in CCTNS including some new police stations added. A total of 20.10 crore records of crime/criminals are available at national level.

35 States/UTs (except Sikkim) have already launched their State Citizen Portals under CCTNS providing citizen centric police services, including online filing of complaints, obtaining status of complaints, obtaining copies of FIRs, viewing details of arrested persons/wanted criminals, viewing details of missing person/unidentified dead bodies, viewing details of stolen/recovered vehicles and other property, download of forms, request for antecedent verification and request for issue of various NOCs from police. A total of 3.61 crore service requests have been received from citizens (till May 2019). Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have launched e-FIR facility for citizens for property and vehicle theft where accused are not known.

The challenges faced during implementation of CCTNS in various States and UTs include orienting police personnel in States and UTs to adopt Information Technology and CCTNS application; getting adequate technical manpower in State Police Departments; digitization of legacy crime and criminal records; use of multiple languages to record data; and provision of network connectivity for police stations especially in geographically difficult locations.

#### CCTN

The Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and Systems, abbreviated to CCTNS, is a project under Indian government for creating a comprehensive and integrated system for effective policing through e-Governance. The system includes nationwide online tracking system by integrating more than 14,000 police stations across the country. The project is implemented by National Crime Records Bureau. The concept of CCTNS was first conceived in the year 2008 in the aftermath of 2008 Mumbai attacks. This was then approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in 2009 and was allocated a fund of Rs. 2,000 crore.

To address the challenges mentioned above, steps taken by the Government include Role-based training given to a total of 5.58 lakh police personnel leading to increased use of CCTNS; funding for State Project Management Units (SPMU) under the project to help States and UTs monitor and provide technical guidance; sharing of data digitization tools and best practices with States and UTs

## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

to expedite the digitization of legacy crime and criminal records; provision of software tools and mechanisms to States and UTs to handle data in different languages; and advisory issued to States and UTs allowing utilization of secured networks in addition to BSNL services for connectivity wherever required.

### m-KISAN PORTAL

1. Information and services available on mkisan portal i.e. <https://mkisan.gov.in> are crop specific advisories to farmers through SMS and Voice
2. Pull SMS service for farmers to register themselves and give feedback on the service
3. Interactive Voice Response System service and extreme weather alert for farmers
4. Advisories to the farmers registered on this portal, can be sent in 12 languages viz., Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu and English.

### BAN ON GM CROPS

1. Bt. cotton is the only Genetically Modified (GM) crop approved in 2002 by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for commercial cultivation in the Country
2. Cultivation of other unapproved GM crops are banned in India. Few incidences of suspected open cultivation of Bt. brinjal and HT cotton were reported in Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.
3. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has issued advisories to States to take appropriate necessary action to curb and control the spread of Bt. Brinjal and HT cotton.
4. There is a well established regulatory framework for approval of GM Crops as per “Rules for the Manufacture/Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms, Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989” under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in the Country.

### IDENTIFICATION OF BENAMI PROPERTIES

1. Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act 1988 as amended by the Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016 seeks to prohibit the benami transactions irrespective of the method by which the benami property is acquired.
2. Such benami transactions include transactions in respect of movable as well as immovable properties.
3. Till 31.05.2019, show cause notices under the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act 1988 have been issued in over 2100 cases involving benami properties valued at over Rs. 9600 crores.
4. The Government has taken various steps to identify benami properties. The Income-tax Department (ITD) has set up 24 dedicated Benami Prohibition Units (BPUs) across India.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

5. These BPU's are involved in gathering information and matching the same with the data available for identifying the benami properties and taking effective action as per the provisions of Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act 1988.

Moreover, a new reward scheme titled *"Benami Transactions Informants Reward Scheme, 2018"* aimed at encouraging people to, inter alia, give information about benami transactions and properties has been introduced. Under the Benami Transactions Informants Reward Scheme, 2018, a person can get reward up to Rs. 1 crore for giving specific information in prescribed manner to the prescribed authorities about benami transactions and properties as well as proceeds from such properties, which are actionable under Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988. Identity of the persons giving information is not disclosed.

### ANTI PROFITEERING MECHANISM UNDER GST

1. In terms of section 171 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, any reduction in the rate of tax on any supply of goods or services or the benefit of input tax credit has to be passed on to the recipient by way of commensurate reduction in prices.
2. National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) has been constituted by the Government to examine the complaints of profiteering against registered persons under GST.
3. Government has taken action against any business entity under Anti Profiteering Mechanism. As on 20.06.2019, based on the Investigation Reports sent by the Directorate General of Anti-profiteering (DGAP), the National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) has passed 67 orders out of which 26 cases were confirmed for profiteering by businesses, with profiteering amounting to Rs. 600.51 crores.

### GENERIC MEDICINES

1. The quality of drugs imported, manufactured and sold in the country is regulated under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 made there under.
2. There is no definition of 'generic drugs' in the said Act & Rules. However, generic medicines are generally those which contain same amount of same active ingredient(s) in same dosage form, and are intended to be administered by the same route of administration as that of branded medicine.
3. The medicines, whether branded, generic or branded-generic, imported or manufactured for sale/distribution in the country, are required to comply with the same standards as specified in the Second Schedule to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

#### RELATED ISSUES

1. Obstacles in popularity of generic medicines
2. Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme

## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

### RASHTRIYA VAYOSHRI YOJANA

1. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the scheme of 'RashtriyaVayoshri Yojana (RVY)' with an objective to provide senior citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from age related disabilities/ infirmities, with such physical aids and assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions.
2. Under the Scheme, aids & assisted living devices viz. walking sticks, elbow crutches, walkers/ crutches, tripods/ quadpods, hearing aids, wheelchairs, artificial dentures and spectacles are distributed free of cost to the eligible senior citizens beneficiaries.
3. The Scheme is entirely funded from the Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund (SCWF), established vide Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund Rules
4. The RashtriyaVayoshri Yojana was launched at Nellore (A.P.) on 1st April, 2017.
5. At present, a total of 326 districts from all State/UTs Administration have been selected for the implementation of RVY.
6. The Scheme is being implemented through 'Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)', (a Public Sector Undertaking under this Ministry) as the sole implementing Agency.
7. Beneficiaries in each district are identified by a team of doctors/technicians/other professionals to assess their needs and to prescribe the requisite Assisted Living Devices in the Assessment Camps organized by ALIMCO in collaboration with the respective District Administration.
8. The devices are then distributed to the identified beneficiaries in the camp mode.

### PROTECTION OF OLDER PERSONS

1. As per Census 2011, senior citizens comprise 8.57% of the total population. Projected population of Senior Citizens by the year 2026 is 12.4%.
2. Government of India has enacted The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWPSA) Act in 2007 to ensure need based maintenance for parents and senior citizens and their welfare.
3. The Act inter-alia provides for maintenance of parents/ senior citizens by children/ relatives made obligatory and justiciable through Tribunals
4. The act provides Revocation of transfer of property by senior citizens in case of neglect by relatives
5. Penal provision for abandonment of senior citizens
6. Establishment of Old Age Homes for Indigent Senior Citizens, Adequate medical facilities and security for Senior Citizens.
7. The MWPSA Act, 2007 has been notified by all State Governments and UT Administrations, except Jammu and Kashmir, where the Act is not applicable, and Himachal Pradesh has its own Act.

### INDEX OF EIGHT CORE INDUSTRIES (BASE: 2011-12=100) MAY, 2019

## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). Its cumulative growth during April to May, 2019-20 was 5.7 per cent.

1. Coal- Coal production (weight: 10.33 per cent)
2. Crude Oil- Crude Oil production (weight: 8.98 per cent)
3. Natural Gas - Natural Gas production (weight: 6.88 per cent)
4. Refinery Products - Petroleum Refinery production (weight: 28.04 per cent)
5. Fertilizers- Fertilizers production (weight: 2.63 per cent)
6. Steel - Steel production (weight: 17.92 per cent)
7. Cement- Cement production (weight: 5.37 per cent)
8. Electricity- Electricity generation (weight: 19.85 per cent)

### RASHTRIYA AVISHKAR ABHIYAN

1. The RashtriyaAvishkar Abhiyan (RAA) was launched on 9th July, 2015 by Late Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Former President of India.
2. The RAA is a convergent framework across School Education and Higher Education to motivate children of the age group from 6-18 years in learning Science, Mathematics and Technology through observation, experimentation, inference drawing, model building, etc. both through inside and outside classroom activities and processes.
3. Major interventions under RAA provided under Integrated scheme for School Education – Samagra Shiksha, include conduct of Science Exhibition, Book Fair, Quiz Competition, exposure/study visits for students to Higher Education institutions, participation of students in Inter-school/State/National level Science & Maths Competitions/Olympiads, strengthening of School Science and Mathematics laboratories, use of teaching-learning equipment and material including Digital models and use of technology in Science and Mathematics teaching.

### 'GO TRIBAL CAMPAIGN' OF TRIBES INDIA

The Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Smt. Renuka Singh launched the “Go Tribal Campaign” of Tribes India to widely promote the use of tribal products. Ms MC Mary Kom, Member of Parliament and Brand Ambassador of Tribes India.

TRIFED has the joint collaboration between TRIFED and Amazon, the tribal products will be available in about 190 countries and will help in establishing export market of tribal products worldwide.

Launch of “Go Tribals Campaign by Tribes India”under which a number of innovative activities have been planned to be undertaken to promote use of tribal handicrafts, handicrafts and natural products.

### INDIGENOUS GPS

India’s own regional navigation satellite system named as “*Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)*” is established by ISRO and is functional from April 2018 onwards.

ISRO has completed all the necessary preparations with regard to establishment of Space Segment (currently Eight IRNSS satellites are in orbit) and Ground Segment (spread across India). The Seven

## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

satellites in the system are providing Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) services and one satellite (IRNSS-1A) is providing messaging services.

The potential of this indigenous system is being demonstrated in various application sectors viz. vehicle tracking system, mobiles, timing & power synchronization, fisheries, surveying etc. For example, all commercial vehicles registered from 1st April 2019 onwards are mandated to have vehicle trackers, which are also NavIC-enabled. More than 30 companies are manufacturing Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) or International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) approved NavIC-enabled vehicle trackers in India. Through the provision of these services, the dependence on the American-owned GPS could be obviated.

### SURJIT BHALLA COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND POLICY

1. High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) headed by Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla has been constituted by the Department of Commerce. The HLAG has made several recommendations for boosting India's share and importance in global merchandise and services trade.
2. Among other things, the Report identifies tax reforms also to boost export and investment channels for exports.
3. The Committee has recommended **"Elephant Bonds"** as a specialised security product providing funds towards Long Term Infrastructure.
4. HLAG has also made recommendations for reforms in Financial Services Framework for making India a Preferred Destination for financial services.

### SAFETY AND SECURITY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

1. 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State list subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.
2. State Governments are thus responsible for safety and security of the citizens including women and girls.
3. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been administering various special laws relating to women such as-
  - a) the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
  - b) Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
  - c) Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986
  - d) Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013
  - e) Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
  - f) Juvenile Justice (care and protection of

#### RELATED ISSUES

1. Make a list of the ways in which following articles can help deal with women empowerment and gender discrimination-  
A-14  
A-15 (3)  
A-16  
A-23  
A-39 (a), (b)  
A-42  
A-243 D
2. Find the UN Conventions related with women issues



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

- children) Act, 2015
- g) Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005
- h) Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.
4. The Criminal Law (Amendments), Act 2013 was enacted for effective legal deterrence against sexual offences. Further, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 was enacted to prescribe even more stringent penal provisions including death penalty for rape of a girl below the age of 12 years. The Act also inter-alia mandates completion of investigation and trials within 2 months each.
5. The Government has also taken a number of initiatives for safety of women and girls, which are given below:
- a. Nirbhaya Fund for projects for safety and security of women, for which Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal authority for appraising/recommending the proposals / schemes to be funded under Nirbhaya Fund.
  - b. an online analytic tool for police on 19th February 2019 called “Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences” to monitor and track time-bound investigation in sexual assault cases in accordance with Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018.
  - c. MHA has launched the “National Database on Sexual Offenders” (NDSO) on 20th September 2018 to facilitate investigation and tracking of sexual offenders across the country by law enforcement agencies. NDSO has data of over 5 lakh sexual offenders.
  - d. Emergency Response Support System, which provides a single emergency number (112) based computer aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distress has been operationalized in 20 States/ UTs in 2018-19.
  - e. MHA has launched a cyber-crime portal on 20th September 2018 for citizens to report obscene content.
  - f. Cyber Crime Forensic Labs have been set up in several States, and training of over 3,664 personnel, including 410 Public Prosecutors and Judicial Officers in identifying, detecting and resolving cyber-crimes against women and children has been imparted.
  - g. Using technology to aid smart policing and safety management, Safe City Projects have been sanctioned in phase I in 8 cities (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai).
  - h. MHA has taken steps to strengthen DNA analysis units in Central and State Forensic Science Laboratories. This includes setting up of a State-of-the-Art DNA Analysis Unit in Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Chandigarh. MHA has also sanctioned setting-up and upgrading of DNA Analysis units in State Forensic Science Laboratories in 13 States/ UTs.
  - i. MHA has set up a Women Safety Division.
  - j. Ministry of Home Affairs has envisaged engagement of Mahila Police Volunteers in States/UTs who will act as a link between police and community and facilitate women in distress.
  - k. Awareness generation programmes and publicity campaigns on various laws relating to women and their rights through workshops, cultural programmes, seminars, training programmes, advertisements in print and electronic media etc.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

### **SOVEREIGN GOLD BONDS**

The Government notified the Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018 on January 02, 2018. The Reserve bank of India (RBI) has announced the issue of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) in consultation with the Government of India for specified period.

The Prescribed ceiling for an individual or an organisation for investment in Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) as indicated in the Notification dated 30th May 2019 is as below:-

- (i) Minimum permissible investment is for 1 gram of gold.
- (ii) The maximum limit of subscription is 4 Kg for individual, HUF and 20 Kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal (April-March) as notified by the Government of India from time to time.

### **URSULA VON DER LEYEN**

European Union President-elect Ursula von der Leyen on Thursday made her first trip to Brussels since being nominated as senior officials sought to shore up support for her appointment in the European Parliament.

### **OSAKA DECLARATION OF G-20**

The 2019 G20 Osaka summit was the fourteenth meeting of the G20, a forum of 19 countries and the EU that together represent most of the world economy. It was held on 28–29 June 2019 at the International Exhibition Center in Osaka. It was the first G20 summit to be hosted by Japan.

The 2019 G20 Summit discussed eight themes to Ensure Global Sustainable Development. The eight themes were "Global Economy", "Trade and Investment", "Innovation", "Environment and Energy", "Employment", "Women's empowerment", "Development" and "Health".

#### **Terrorism –**

1. The joint statement gave very low priority to terrorism, but the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) got due prominence.
2. It welcomed the UNSC Resolution 2462, which stresses the essential role of the FATF.
3. FATF's crucial role in setting global standards for preventing and combating money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing was noted.
4. The declaration called for the full, effective and swift implementation of the FATF standards.
5. India has been quite active at the FATF with Pakistan's grey-listing, and China will now hold the chair after the US.

#### **Anti-corruption –**

1. The Osaka declaration stressed on economic offenders as part of the anti-corruption theme.
2. It noted that the countries would work on a scoping paper on international cooperation dealing with "serious economic offenders" and recovery of stolen assets.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

3. It committed to intensify efforts to combat foreign bribery and to ensure that each G-20 country has a national law in force for criminalizing foreign bribery as soon as possible.
4. The issue has notably been portrayed by the Indian government as a priority objective.

### Climate Change –

1. Signatories to the Paris Agreement on climate change reaffirmed their commitment to its full implementation.
2. It reflected their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.
3. The declaration emphasized the importance of providing financial resources to assist developing countries for both mitigation and adaptation.
4. However, it was able to make its way to get its position reflected in the G-20 statement for the first time.

### India's priorities at G-20 –

1. India's primary concern on terrorism was not given due prominence at G-20 this year.
2. But its concerns on black money, cross-border flow of data, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and significance of FATF were given due importance.
3. India will now have to start thinking about its agenda for 2020, especially since it is going to shape the agenda in 2022 as host of G-20.
4. Quality infrastructure - The declaration stressed the importance of maximising the positive impact of infrastructure and gave prominence to "sustainability of public finances".
5. The mention on impact takes into account environmental and social factors, all of which point towards China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
6. The criticism against the Chinese BRI mainly includes unsustainable financing and poor environmental considerations.

### **UNSC Resolution 2462**

1. Adopted by the Security Council at its 8496th meeting, on 28 March 2019
2. Resolution 2462 also affirms the Resolution 1373 and in particular, its decisions on countries to prevent financing of terrorist acts and to refrain from providing any of support in that regard. Resolution 1373 was the first comprehensive resolution imposing obligations on all states to respond to the global threat of terrorism. It was adopted in 2001, in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks in the US.
3. The UN Security Council recently adopted the Resolution 2462, which was initiated by France.
4. It is intended to update existing resolutions and adapt them to new forms of financing of terrorism and new challenges in this field.
5. In this regard, it calls upon countries to prevent and counter the financing of terrorism, especially in its new forms.
6. It also calls for enhancing the traceability and transparency of financial transactions.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

7. Trade – The presence of the challenge of trade protectionism across the world was acknowledged at the summit.
8. The G-20 leaders thus committed to ensure a free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.
9. Taking note of the growing risks to the global economy, the leaders also called for a reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
10. The declaration highlighted the need for carefully calibrated macroeconomic and structural policies designed to country-specific circumstances.
11. This is particularly to address excessive current account imbalances and mitigate the risks to achieving the G-20 goal of strong and inclusive growth.
12. Besides, the declaration called for the IMF to expedite its work on its resources and governance reform on a priority basis.
13. It also urged the IMF and the World Bank Group to continue efforts to strengthen borrowers' capacity in the area of debt recording, monitoring and reporting.
14. G-20 further said that it would intensify its efforts for a consensus-based solution on tax challenges arising from digitalisation with a report by 2020.

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