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1 E-governance in Indian Air force

CONTEXT:

- Indian air force launched e-governance (e-office) portal.

ABOUT:

- The portal provides for the creation, handling, movement, processing, and archival of files and documents and would enable quick disposal and faster decision making
- The platform would achieve enhanced transparency, improved efficiency, increased accountability, assured data integrity and rapidly accessible archives along with a major reduction in the use of paper.
- The implementation undertaken as part of Digital India and e-governance initiative will transform the entire Indian Air Force to a 'paperless office' workflow.
- The launch of e-Governance in IAF marks a paradigm shift from the current method of correspondence, filing and documentation to a digital one.

2 MISSION SAGAR III

CONTEXT

- Indian Naval Ship Kiltan arrived at NhaRong Port, Ho Chi Minh City as part of Mission Sagar-III.

ABOUT:

- This Mission is part of India's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries during the ongoing pandemic.
- The ship delivered 15 Tons of HADR Stores for the flood-affected people of Central Vietnam.
- This assistance is reflective of the deep people-to-people connect between the two friendly countries.
- Mission Sagar-III is being undertaken in accordance with Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region) and reiterates India's position as a dependable partner, and the Indian Navy as the Preferred Security Partner and First Responder.
- The Mission also highlights the importance accorded to ASEAN countries and further strengthens the existing bonds.
- India and Vietnam have a civilisational relationship that is over two millennia old. India-Vietnam relations have grown stronger in recent times due to the vibrant economic engagement and growing convergence on issues of common interests. The bilateral relations were elevated to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** in 2016.

SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region):

- Looking at such economic and strategic importance of Indian Ocean islands as also recognized by other nations, SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) was launched by India in 2015.

- ▶ The main purpose for SAGAR was tackling regional issues like providing humanitarian help to maritime neighbors and counter non-state actors like pirates in the Indian Ocean.
- ▶ 2004 tsunami, repeated earthquakes, threat of rising sea water, water crisis of Maldives and Indian help that followed shows the importance of this initiative.

3 IND-INDO CORPAT

CONTEXT:

- Recently, the 35th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy was conducted.

ABOUT:

- As part of Government of India's vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region), the Indian Navy has been proactively engaging with countries in the Indian Ocean Region for Coordinated Patrols, cooperation in EEZ Surveillance, Passage exercises and Bilateral/ Multi-lateral exercises, towards enhancing regional maritime security.
- India and Indonesia have especially enjoyed a close and friendly relationship covering a wide spectrum of activities and interactions, which have strengthened over the years.
- To reinforce maritime links, the two navies have been carrying out CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line since 2002, with the aim of ensuring safety and security of shipping and international trade in the region.
- CORPATs build up understanding and interoperability between navies and facilitate institution of measures to prevent and suppress Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy.
- The 35th IND - INDO CORPAT contributed towards the Indian Navy's efforts to consolidate interoperability and forge strong bonds of friendship across the Indo Pacific.

4 India-Bangladesh Virtual Summit

CONTEXT:

- Recently, Prime Minister of India and Prime Minister of Bangladesh held a Summit in virtual format.

Summit Highlights:

- **Cooperation in Health Sector- addressing the global public health challenge:**
 - Reiterating the highest priority India attaches to Bangladesh under India's Neighbourhood First Policy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured that vaccines would be made available to Bangladesh as and when produced in India.
- **Cultural Cooperation - Joint Celebration of Historical Links:**
 - Bangladesh Prime Minister requested the Indian side to consider Bangladesh's proposal to name the historic road from Mujib Nagar to Nodia on Bangladesh-India border as "**Shadhinota**

Shorok” commemorating the historic significance of the road during Bangladesh’s Liberation War.

- **Border Management and Security Cooperation:**

- Bangladesh side reiterated the request for 1.3 km **Innocent Passage** through river route along River Padma near Rajshahi District. The Indian side assured to consider the request.
- Both leaders agreed to facilitate completion of **border fencing** at all pending sectors at the international border between both the countries at the earliest beginning from the Tripura (India)- Bangladesh sector
- Recognizing that terrorism remains a threat to global peace and security, both sides reiterated their strong commitment to eliminating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

- **Trade Partnership for Growth**

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina appreciated the Duty Free and Quota Free access given to Bangladeshi exports to India under **SAFTA** since 2011.
- Both Prime Ministers emphasized on addressing issues of non-tariff barriers and trade facilitation including port restrictions, procedural bottlenecks and quarantine restrictions so that both countries can take full advantage of SAFTA flexibility.
- Recognizing the immense potential of bilateral economic and commercial ties, both Prime Ministers directed the officials to expeditiously conclude the ongoing joint study on the prospects of entering into a bilateral **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**.

- **Connectivity for Prosperity**

- The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction the continued progress made towards the restoration of pre-1965 railway linkages between both nations.
- They jointly inaugurated the newly restored railway link between **Haldibari (India) and Chilahati (Bangladesh)** and noted that this rail link will further strengthen trade and people to people ties between the two sides. It was decided to operationalize the train as and when the COVID situation improves.
- The two leaders took stock of the ongoing bilateral connectivity measures and welcomed the recent initiatives including the signing of the second addendum to the Protocol on **Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT)**, trial run of trans-shipment of Indian goods from Kolkata to Agartala via Chattogram and operationalization of Sonamura-Daudkandi Protocol route under the PIWTT.
- Both the leaders agreed to expeditiously operationalise trans-shipment of Indian goods through Chattogram and Mongla Ports.
- To facilitate better connectivity and simplify movement of passengers and goods between both the countries, both leaders agreed to an early operationalization of the **BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement** through expeditious signing of the Enabling MoU for Bangladesh, India and Nepal to commence the movement of goods and passengers, with provision for Bhutan to join at a later date.
- Bangladesh Prime Minister expressed keen interest in the ongoing India **Myanmar Thailand trilateral highway project** and sought support of India for enabling Bangladesh to connect with this project with a view to enhance connectivity between the regions of South and South East .
- India reiterated its request to the Government of Bangladesh of having at least one Land Port with minimal negative list between the each neighbouring states of India and Bangladesh, beginning with Agartala-Akhaura.

• Cooperation in Water Resources, Power and Energy:

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina highlighted the need for early signing of interim agreement for sharing of the Teesta waters, as agreed upon by both the governments in 2011.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated India's sincere commitment and continued efforts of the Government of India in that regard.

The Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN):

- This initiative is a sub regional architecture of countries in Eastern South Asia, a sub region of South Asia.
- It meets through official representation of member states to formulate, implement and review quadrilateral agreements across areas such as water resources management, connectivity of power, transport, and infrastructure.



The India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway:

- This highway is expected to help greatly in the transport connectivity – 1,3660 km long cross border highway network and is currently under construction, expected to be completed by 2021.
- The road is expected to boost trade and commerce in the ASEAN–India Free Trade Area, as well as with the rest of Southeast Asia.
- India has also proposed extending the highway to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.
- The proposed approx 3,200 km (2,000 mi) route from India to Vietnam is known as the East-West Economic Corridor.



5 National Jal Jeevan Mission

CONTEXT:

- The National Jal Jeevan Mission has launched an innovation challenge in partnership with Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade to develop portable devices for water testing.

ABOUT:

- The main objective of the exercise is to bring an innovative, modular, and cost-effective solution to develop portable devices that can be used at the household level to test the drinking water quality instantly, easily and accurately.
- Water quality testing is one of the priority areas under Jal Jeevan Mission, the flagship programme of Union Government. The aim of the innovation challenge is to ensure that water sources are tested at various locations, at different levels; thereby, helping the policy framers to design programs which address the water contamination issues.
- People receiving piped water supply in their homes do not have any means to test the potability of water coming from their taps. This leads to a situation wherein, quite often, people are reluctant to consume tap water directly.
- People in urban areas also end up installing household water treatment units incurring additional expenditure. The challenge aims to address these issues in an innovative, modular and cost-effective manner.

Jal Jeevan Mission

- ▶ Jal Jeevan Mission is under implementation in partnership with the States to enable every rural home to have tap water connection by 2024.
- ▶ The aim of the mission is to provide every rural household potable tap water in adequate quantity and of prescribed quality on a regular and long-term basis.



6

Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT

CONTEXT:

- PM launched Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT to extend coverage to all residents of J&K.

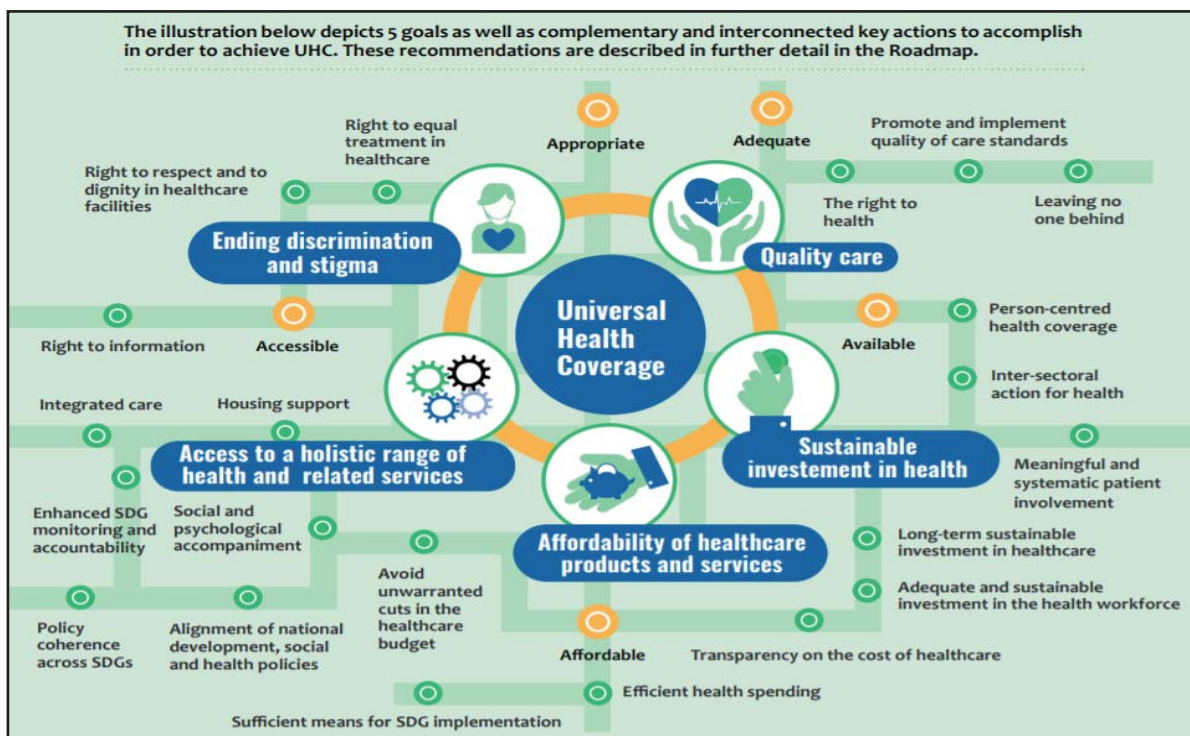
ABOUT:

- The scheme ensures Universal Health Coverage and focus on providing financial risk protection and ensuring quality and affordable essential health services to all individuals and communities.
- The Scheme provides free of cost insurance cover to all the residents of the UT of J&K.
- It provides financial cover upto Rs 5 lakh per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT of J&K.
- It provides for operational extension of PM-JAY to 15 lakh (approx) additional families.
- The scheme will operate on insurance mode in convergence with PM-JAY.
- The benefits of the scheme will be portable across the country. The hospitals empanelled under PM-JAY scheme shall provide services under this scheme as well.

Achieving Universal Health Coverage:

- ▶ Universal Health Coverage (UHC) includes the full spectrum of essential, quality health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care and enables everyone to access the services, protecting people from the financial consequences of paying for health services out of their own pockets and reducing the risk that people will be pushed to poverty.

- The Ayushman Bharat program, with its two pillars – Health and Wellness Centres and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna – is envisaged to achieve UHC.



7

India-NDB agreement to support India's economic recovery from COVID-19

CONTEXT:

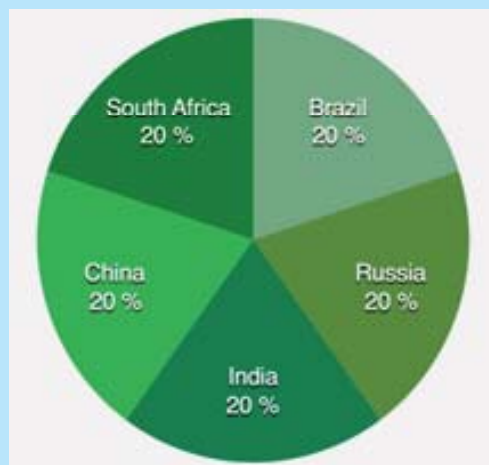
- Government of India and NDB sign agreement to provide support to Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan through MGNREG Scheme to support India's economic recovery from COVID-19.

ABOUT:

- The country-wide restriction on movement of people, coupled with additional stringent restrictions imposed by State Governments and intermittent localized lockdowns to contain the spread of COVID-19, affected domestic supply and demand, resulting in slowed down economic activity.
- This resulted in loss of employment and income of workers especially those employed in the informal sector, including rural areas.
- The programme will support Government in mitigating the adverse economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic and enable economic recovery in the rural areas through:
 - Natural resource management works which will facilitate economic activity and
 - Employment generation to stimulate rural demand, to combat the decline in economic activity due to outbreak of COVID-19.
- The programme proposes creation of durable rural infrastructure assets relating to NRM and generation of employment opportunities for rural poor, especially migrant workers who have returned from urban areas and have lost their livelihoods due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The New Development Bank (NDB):

- ▶ The NDB was established based on the Inter-Governmental agreement among the BRICS countries (Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa) signed on 15th July 2014.
- ▶ The purpose of the Bank is to mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging market economies and developing countries.
- ▶ The \$1 billion loan from the NDB has a tenor of 30 years, including a 5-year grace period.
- ▶ Distribution of shares between the shareholders of the NDB:

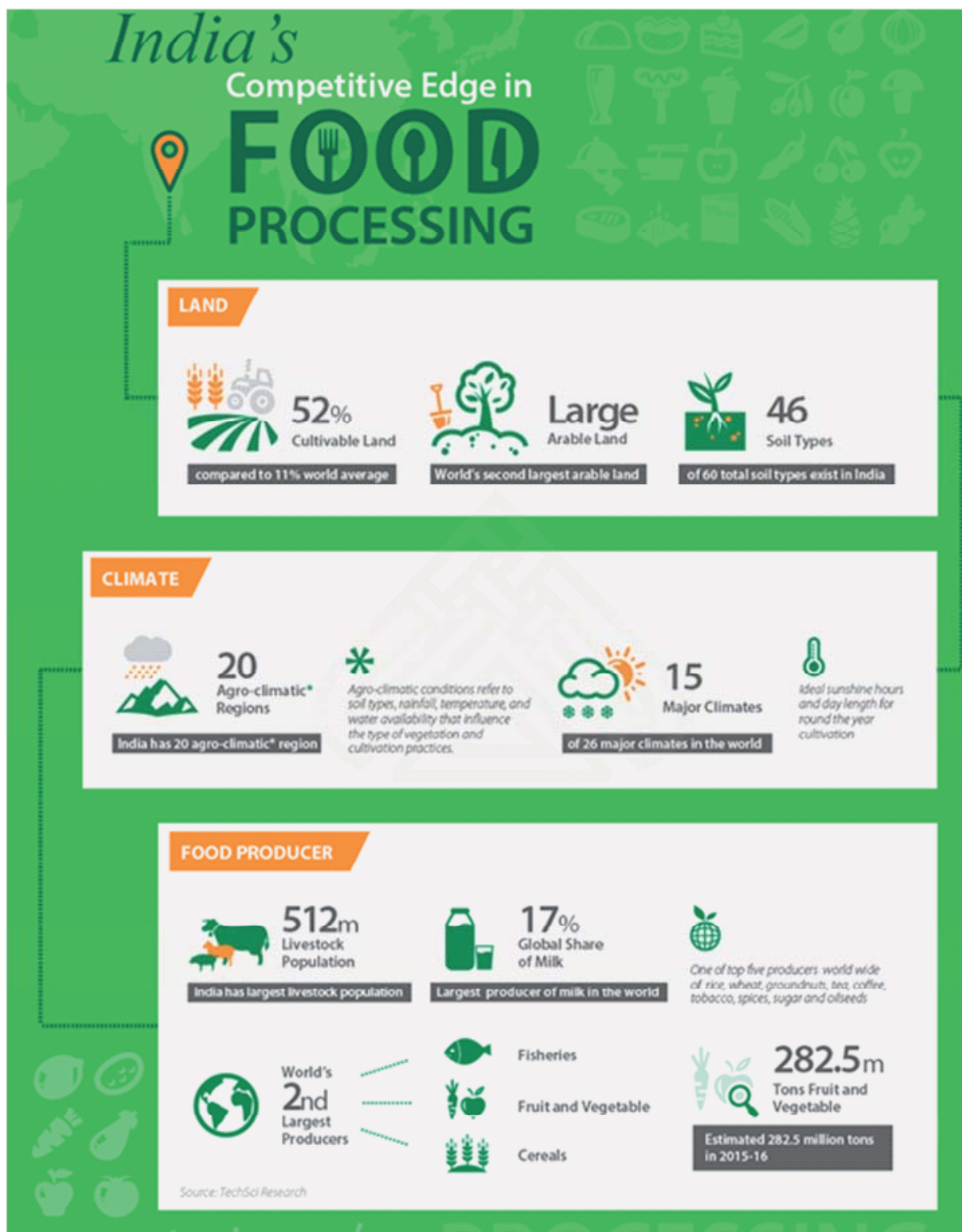
**8****The Micro food processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme****CONTEXT:**

- Joint Communiqué Signed between M/O Tribal Affairs and M/O Food Processing Industries Defining Convergence Mechanism in Implementation of PMFME Scheme for Micro Food Processing Industries.

The features of 'Joint Communiqué' are as under:

- The **Micro food processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme** being implemented by MoFPI is a landmark initiative under Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan to support Micro Level Food Entrepreneurs, FPOs/SHGs/ Co- operatives.
- The program has four major components:
 - Support to individual and groups of micro enterprises;
 - Branding and Marketing support;
 - Strengthening institutional support and
 - Setting up robust project management frameworks with Tribal Sub plan being one of the important elements.
- M/oFood Processing Industries (MoFPI) would fund for development by incubation centers in tribal focused districts under PMFME Scheme for common processing and training to tribal entrepreneurs.
- PMFME Scheme provides for seed capital of up to Rs.40000/- to be given to members of SHGs and others engaged in food processing for working capital and purchase of tools.
- M/oTribal Affairs (MoTA) would identify the tribal enterprises and groups (existing/potential to be engaged) in food processing sector including minor forest produce.
- MoTA through state, district and field level staff would train and build capacity for supporting and handholding of identified beneficiaries to be benefitted under PMFME scheme.
- Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) would provide handholding support to Tribal SHGs and Van Dhan SHG groups and their members in preparation of DPRs, application process, getting necessary technical training, etc. so as to enable them to benefit from various provisions under PMFME scheme including for capital investment.

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for the welfare of tribals.
- The present collaboration between MoFPI and MoTA will go a long way in socio-economic development of STs across the country.



9

Industrial Corridor at Krishnapatnam and Tumakuru**CONTEXT:**

- Cabinet approves Industrial Corridor nodes at Krishnapatnam and Tumakuru .

ABOUT:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister has approved proposals of Department of Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT) for construction of various trunk infrastructure components for:
 - Krishnapatnam Industrial Area in Andhra Pradesh
 - Tumakuru Industrial Area in Karnataka
 - Multi Modal Logistics Hub (MMLH) and Multi Modal Transport Hub (MMTH) at Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh
- Envisioned on the backbone of major transportation corridors like Eastern & Western Dedicated Freight Corridors, Expressways and National Highways, proximity to ports, airports, etc., the objective of Industrial Corridor Programme is the creation of **greenfield industrial cities** with sustainable, 'plug n play', ICT enabled utilities to facilitate the manufacturing investments into the country by providing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure to industries.
- The developed land parcels in these cities will be ready for immediate allotment for attracting investments into manufacturing and positioning India as a strong player in the Global Value Chain.
- The Industrial Corridor Programme thrives to attain the objective of creation of an "*Atmanirbhar Bharat*" to drive the growth of industries and create greater avenues for investments across the country.

Greenfield land:

- It is undeveloped land in a city or rural area either used for agriculture or landscape design, or left to evolve naturally. These areas of land are usually agricultural or amenity properties being considered for urban development.
- Greenfield land can be unfenced open fields, urban lots or restricted closed properties. They are kept off limits to the general public by a private or government entity.
- Greenfield sites offer a high degree of freedom for a developer, compared to sites with existing developments. For example, a greenfield site is a welcome opportunity for a cable operator to choose equipment based on cost and aesthetic parameters, without considering migration issues related to legacy equipment on the site.

Brownfield land

- In urban planning, brownfield land is any previously developed land that is not currently in use that may be potentially contaminated.
- The term is also used to describe land previously used for industrial or commercial purposes with known or suspected pollution including soil contamination due to hazardous waste.

Greyfield land

- Greyfield land is economically obsolescent, outdated, failing, moribund, or underused real estate assets or land.

10 Bengal Basin

CONTEXT:

- Bolstering efforts to meet one of the vital essentials- the energy need for Atma Nirbhar Bharat, Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel dedicated the Bengal Basin, the 8th producing basin of India, to the nation.

ABOUT:

- ONGC took a major step by commencing oil production from the well Asokenagar-1, Bengal Basin in 24 Paragana district.
- The well Asokenagar-1 was completed as an oil producer under Early-Monetization Plan issued by Government of India.
- This makes ONGC having discovered and put to production seven out of the eight producing basins of India covering 83 percent of established oil & gas reserves.
- ONGC is India's largest oil and gas producer contributing 72 percent of the country's hydrocarbon production.

The Bengal basin:

- ▶ The Bengal Basin is one of the most extensive sediment reservoirs in the world and constitutes the lower floodplain and delta plain deposits of India and Bangladesh, at the mouth of the Ganga–Brahmaputra–Meghna River systems.
- ▶ It is spread across nearly 1.22 lakh square kilometres, with nearly two-third of it falling under the waters of the Bay of Bengal.
- ▶ Bengal Basin is situated towards the northeastern part of Indian Peninsula in the state of West Bengal, lies tentatively between Latitudes 25°-20°30' and Longitude 87°30' – 90° 30' and falls in the West Bengal state of India and Bangladesh. Towards south the basin extends into the offshore region of Bay of Bengal.



- ▶ The formation of the Bengal Basin was initiated during Middle-Upper Cretaceous time with differential subsidence. This episode corresponds with the deposition of the subaerial fluvial clastics of the Bolpur Formation and its facies variant of the shell limestone and shale-sandstone of the Ghatal Formation in the shelf area.

11**North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project****CONTEXT:**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister has approved the Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) of North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP).

ABOUT:

- This is a major step towards economic development of North Eastern Region through strengthening of Intra - State Transmission and Distribution systems.
- The scheme is being implemented through POWERGRID, with six beneficiaries North Eastern States namely, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura and is targeted to be commissioned by December 2021.
- After commissioning, the project will be owned and maintained by the respective North Eastern State Utilities.
- The main objective of the project is Government commitment for the total economic development of North Eastern Region and to strengthen the Intra-State Transmission & Distribution Infrastructure in the North East Region.
- Implementation of this scheme will create a reliable power grid and improve NER States' connectivity to the upcoming load centers, and thus extend the benefits of the grid connected power to all categories of consumers of beneficiaries in North Eastern Region.
- The scheme shall also increase the per capita power consumption of these States, and shall contribute to the total economic development of the North-Eastern Region.
- Implementing agencies are hiring a considerable number of local manpower during their construction works, generating a lot of employment for skilled and unskilled manpower of North-Eastern Region.
- Further after completion, additional manpower will be required for Operation & Maintenance of these newly created assets as per standard norms, generating considerable additional employment opportunities for North Eastern Region States.

The Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID):

- ▶ POWERGRID is an Indian state-owned Maharatna company headquartered in Gurugram, engaged mainly in Transmission of Power.
- ▶ POWERGRID transmits about 50% of the total power generated in India on its transmission network.
- ▶ Its former subsidiary company, Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) handles power management for National Grid and all state transmission utilities.
- ▶ POWERGRID also operates a telecom business under the name POWERTEL.

12 Light House Projects (LHPs)

CONTEXT:

- Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Light House Projects (LHPs) under Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India) at six sites across six States.

ABOUT:

- The Light House Projects (LHPs) showcase the best of new-age alternate global technologies, materials and processes in the construction sector for the first time in the country at such a large scale.
- They are being constructed under GHTC-India which envisages to provide an ecosystem for adoption of innovative technologies in the housing construction sector in a holistic manner.
- The LHPs are being constructed at Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Rajkot (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Agartala (Tripura) and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh).
- They comprise about 1000 houses at each location along with allied infrastructure facilities.
- These projects will demonstrate and deliver ready to live houses at an expedited pace within twelve months, as compared to conventional brick and mortar construction, and will be more economical, sustainable, of high quality and durability.
- The LHPs will serve as live laboratories for facilitating transfer of technology to the field and its further replication.

13 Hypersonic wind tunnel (HWT)

CONTEXT:

- India's first hypersonic wind tunnel test facility inaugurated in Hyderabad

ABOUT:

- The state-of-the-art HWT Test facility is pressure vacuum driven enclosed free jet facility having nozzle exit diameter of 1 meter and will simulate Mach No 5 to 12 (Mach represents the multiplication factor to the speed of sound).
- After America and Russia, India is the third country to have such a large facility in terms of size and operating capability.
- It is an indigenous development and an outcome of synergistic partnership with Indian industries.
- The facility has the capability to "simulate hypersonic flow over a wide spectrum and will play a major role in the realization of highly complex futuristic aerospace and defence systems.
-

14 Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM)

CONTEXT:

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) achieved a major milestone with the maiden launch of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM), Army Version from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the Coast of Odisha.

ABOUT:

- MRSAM is a high response, quick reaction, vertically launched supersonic missile, designed to neutralize enemy aerial threats – missiles, aircraft, guided bombs, helicopters. Used by Army, Navy and Air Force as different variants.
- The missile completely destroyed a high speed unmanned aerial target which was mimicking an aircraft with a direct hit.
- Army version of MRSAM is a surface to Air Missile developed jointly by DRDO, India and IAI, Israel for use of the Indian Army.
- MRSAM Army weapon system comprises of Command post, Multi-Function Radar and Mobile Launcher system.

15 Export of Akash Missile System

CONTEXT:

- Cabinet Approved Export of Akash Missile System and Creates a Committee for faster Approval of Exports

ABOUT:

- Under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat, India is growing in its capabilities of manufacturing wide variety of Defence platforms and missiles. Akash is country's important missile with over 96 percent indigenisation.
- After its induction in the Services, interest is shown in Akash missile by many friendly countries during International Exhibitions/Def Expo/Aero India.
- So far, Indian defence exports included parts/components etc. The export of big platforms was minimal. This initiative of the Cabinet would help the country to improve its defence products and make them globally competitive.
- The export version of Akash will be different from System currently deployed with Indian Armed Forces.
- Besides Akash, there is interest coming in other major platforms like Coastal Surveillance System, Radars and Air platforms.
- To provide faster approvals for export of such platforms, a Committee comprising of Raksha Mantri, External Affairs Minister and National Security Advisor has been created.
- This Committee would authorise subsequent exports of major indigenous platforms to various countries. The Committee would also explore various available options including the Government-to-Government route.



- Government of India intends to focus on exporting high value defence platforms, to achieve target of 5 Billion USD of defence export and improve strategic relations with friendly foreign countries.

Akash :

- ▶ It is a medium-range mobile surface-to-air missile defense system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and produced by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for Missile Systems, Bharat Electronics (BEL), Tata Power Strategic Engineering Division and Larsen & Toubro for other radars, control centers, launcher systems in India.
- ▶ The missile system can target aircraft up to 25 km away, at altitudes up to 18,000 m.
- ▶ It has the capability to neutralize aerial targets like fighter jets, cruise missiles and air-to-surface missiles as well as ballistic missiles.
- ▶ It is in operational service with the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force.

16 Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2020

CONTEXT:

- Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been awarded with the prestigious Golden Peacock Environment Management Award for the year 2020 in the Steel Sector by the Institute of Directors.

ABOUT:

- SAIL has been the winner of this award for successive two years and this bears testimony to the efforts made by the Company for sustainable and environmentally responsible steel making.
- This award is one of the most coveted awards in the category.
- Considering various environmental issues leading to global warming and climate change, the award encourages corporates to enhance their environmental performance and to compete with peers to set benchmarks.

17 Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)

CONTEXT:

- The 5th meeting of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) took place on 17 December 2020.

ABOUT:

- The meeting was coordinated by Indian Navy being the Chair of the IONS Working Group on HADR.
- The meeting was attended by Australia, Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Maldives, Oman and Thailand besides India.
- The IONS is a voluntary and inclusive initiative that brings together navies of Indian Ocean Region littoral states to increase maritime co-operation and enhance regional security.
- A co-operative forum for discussion on regional maritime issues, it also serves to develop an effective response mechanism against natural disasters.

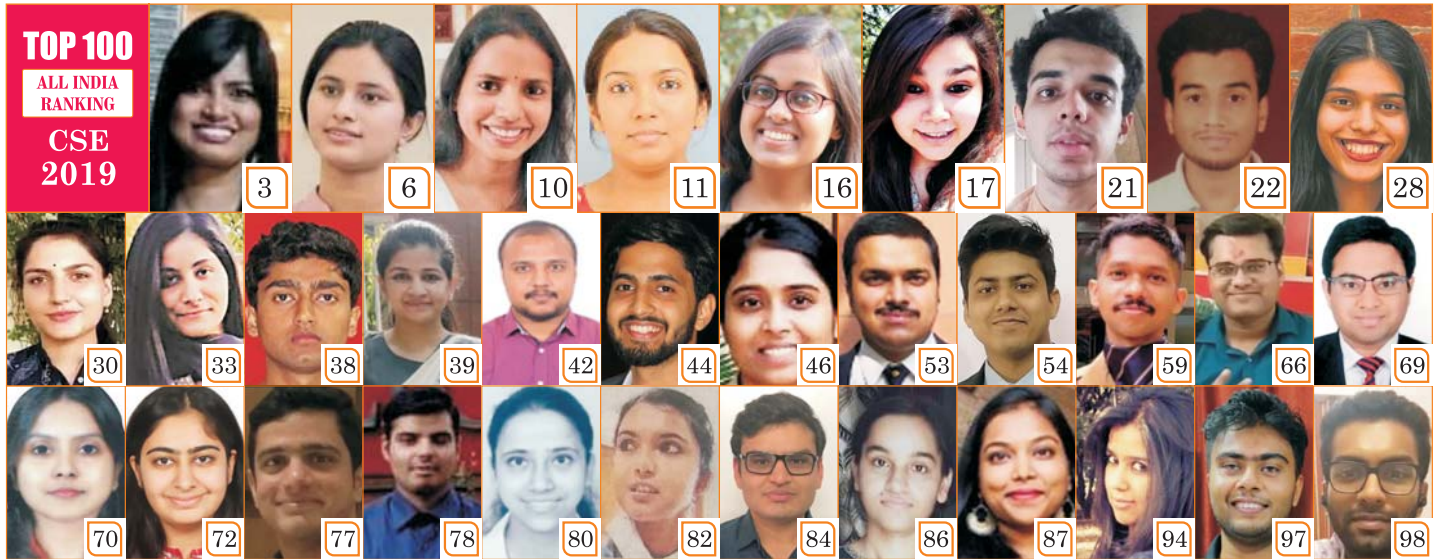
- Instituted in 2008, the IONS initiative has grown significantly and presently enjoys wide acceptance across the Indian Ocean Region.
- In the past few years, three IONS Working Groups (IWG) have been progressing work in the fields of Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR), Maritime Security & Information Sharing and Inter-operability.
- Owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 5th meeting of IWG on HADR took place through video conference.

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR):

- ▶ HADR Programme seeks to facilitate and enhance cooperation on preparedness and response strategies to the fragile and unpredictable situations we face in the Asia-Pacific.
- ▶ Aside from comprehensively investigating regional emergency response frameworks, governance issues, disaster preparedness strategies and the identification and development of response niches for civilian and military actors, the programme also seeks to develop the next generation of global leaders in HADR through roundtable sessions, dialogues and workshops.
- ▶ HADR operations have attracted the attention of the global community in recent years.
- ▶ Indian Navy has played a yeoman role in providing relief in times of natural calamities in the region through operations like operations sukhon, operation safe home, etc.

Three pillars of HADR:

- ▶ **Future HADR Landscape in Asia-Structures and Mechanisms:** This first pillar of the programme tracks the emergence of new humanitarian actors (both state and non-state) and maps particular successes, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in preparing for disaster relief and conflict response in the region.
- ▶ **Community Protection and Assistance:** The second pillar focuses on the complex nature of humanitarian assistance that evolves from specific vulnerable communities' varying and often limited capacities to protect themselves from impacts of disasters.
- ▶ **Humanitarian Technology:** The third pillar of the HADR programme examines the field of humanitarian technology [HUMTECH] as applied to a broadly defined context of crises encompassing both natural disasters and conflict zones.



SUCCESS IS A PRACTICE WE DO!

