

GSSCORE

An Institute for Civil Services



PIB

**FORTNIGHTLY
COMPILATION**

1-15 JANUARY, 2020

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GS SCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

IAS PRELIMS 2020

Target PT 2020

COMPLETE REVISION
through
4000⁺ MCQs

BATCH-4 STARTS

27 JANUARY
2020

Test Timings:
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
Class Timings:
10:00 AM onwards

BATCH-5 STARTS

12 FEBRUARY
2020

Test Timings:
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM
Class Timings:
4:30 PM onwards

45 Concept cum Revision
Classes with Daily Test



15 Prelims Current Affairs
Classes + Tests



Special Classes on
Economic Survey & Budget



Special Classes on
India Year Book & Mapping



Prelims Mock
Test Series



Prelims Study Material

- This programme covers the complete syllabus including - History, Geography, Polity, Economy, Science, Environment and Current Affairs with the correct mix of Fundamental and Advance level of study to cover micro detailing of sub-topics & current developments.
- 45 Concept cum Revision Classes (4-5 Hrs.) for covering basic concepts. In each session there will be a test of 50 questions (based on the topics given in schedule) followed by Class to cover basic aspects of each topic and approach to handle questions.
- The idea behind taking test before classes is that, first students should brainstorm on the given topics through the test to find their strong and weak areas. Then a class on same topics will provide a conceptual clarity that helps to revise the topics twice on the same day.
- 15 Current Affairs classes covering last 2 years current topics/issues, updates on Indian Year Book (IYB), PIB, Budget and Economic Survey supplemented by notes.
- Current Affairs Classes will also include updates on Indian Year Book (IYB), PIB, Budget and Economic Survey.
- Special Classes on Mapping (World & Indian Geography).
- Prelims Test Series including 20 Mock Test and 8 Current Affairs Tests.
- Complete Prelims Study Material & Prelims Current Affairs Material will also be provided (It will cover Current Affairs of past 2 years).

Office: 1B, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 (Adjacent to Karol Bagh Metro Gate No. 8)



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1

REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

- In order to enable applicants to track the status of the application, the Election Commission of India has launched a “**Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System (PPRTMS)**”.
- The salient feature in the PPRTMS is that the applicant, who is applying for party registration from 1st January 2020 will be able to track the progress of his/her application and will get the status update through SMS and e-mail.
- The status can be tracked through the Commission’s portal.

The provision for registration:

- Registration of political parties is governed by the provisions of **Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951**.
- An association seeking registration under the said Section has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation, as per the guidelines prescribed by the Commission in exercise of the powers conferred by **Article 324** of the Constitution of India and Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- At present, India have around **2,293 political parties**, which include **7 “recognized national”** and **59 “recognized state”** parties.

Representation of Peoples Act 1951 provides for the actual conduct of elections in India. It deals with details such as qualification and disqualification of members of both houses of Parliament (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha) and the state legislatures (State Legislative Assembly and State Legislative Council).

2

THE FIRST CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF (CDS) OF INDIA

- General Bipin Rawat has assumed the newly formed office of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
- Ex-Chief of the Army Staff General Rawat, is an alumnus of **National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College, Wellington; Higher Command, National Defence College**.
- He also attended the **Command and General Staff Course** at **Fort Leavenworth in the United States**.
- During his distinguished career in the Army, General Rawat commanded an **Infantry battalion** along the **Line of Actual Control** in the Eastern Sector, a **Rashtriya Rifles Sector**, an Infantry Division in the Kashmir Valley and a Corps in the North East.
- General Rawat had also commanded a **Multinational Brigade** in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**.
- As an Army Commander, he commanded a theatre of operations along the Western Front and was appointed the **Vice Chief of the Army Staff** before assuming the office of Chief of the Army Staff.
- During the span of over 41 years in the Army, General Rawat has been awarded several gallantry and distinguished service awards.

Decoding CDS:

- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is a post that acts as the single-point advisor to the Government of India in the matters of India’s military.
- The four-star military officer, CDS is the head of the:

- Army
- Navy
- Air Force
- As the CDS, General Rawat will be the Principal Military Advisor to the Raksha Mantri on all Tri-Services matters. He will also head the Department of Military Affairs (DMA).
- The CDS will have a key role in ensuring optimum utilisation of allocated budget, usher in more synergy in procurement, training & operations of the Services through joint planning and integration.
- The CDS will facilitate indigenisation of weapons and equipment to the maximum extent possible while formulating the overall defence acquisition plan for the three Services.

3

PM DEDICATES 5 DRDO YOUNG SCIENTISTS LABORATORIES TO THE NATION

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation 5 Young Scientists Laboratories of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- DRDO Young Scientist Laboratories (DYSLs) are located in five cities:
 - Bengaluru
 - Mumbai
 - Chennai
 - Kolkata
 - Hyderabad
- Each lab will work on key advanced technology of importance to the development of futuristic defence systems viz, Artificial intelligence, Quantum technologies, Cognitive technologies, Asymmetric technologies and Smart materials.

4

NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE COLLEGE

- The government has dedicated to the Nation the new campus of the **National Fire Service College (NFSC)** in **Nagpur** and also laid the foundation of the **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Academy at Nagpur**.
- The Government also announced the **Subhash Chandra Bose Award** in the field of **Disaster Management**.

Role of NDRF:

- Fire service is a **state subject** and has been included as a municipal function in the **XII schedule of the Constitution of India**.
- The municipal corporations and local bodies are responsible for providing fire services in many states.
- With time, India is emerging as the hub for training disaster management personnel in the SAARC region and the recent developments will further facilitate the exchange of best practices and minimise the effects of disasters on the people.
- NDRF has emerged as the leading disaster management force globally and it has achieved all benchmarks under Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted by the UN Member States in 2015 in Sendai City, Japan. The Sendai Framework aims to achieve the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries over the next 15 years.

5

2636 EV CHARGING STATIONS SANCTIONED IN FAME-II SCHEME

- To give a further push to clean mobility in Road Transport Sector, the **Department of Heavy Industries** has sanctioned 2636 charging stations in 62 cities across 24 States/UTs under FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India) scheme phase II.
- Given is the state-wise list where charging stations have been allotted:

State	No. of EV charging stations	State	No. of EV charging stations
Maharashtra	317	Andhra Pradesh	266
Tamil Nadu	256	Gujarat	228
Rajasthan	205	Uttar Pradesh	207
Karnataka	172	Madhya Pradesh	159
West Bengal	141	Telangana	138
Kerala	131	Delhi	72
Chandigarh	70	Haryana	50
Meghalaya	40	Bihar	37
Sikkim	29	Assam	20
Jammu & Kashmir and Chhattisgarh	25 each	Odisha	18
Uttarakhand, Puducherry and Himachal Pradesh	10 each		

What is FAME Scheme?

- The Faster Adoption and Manufacture of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme, launched in 2015, is an incentive scheme for the promotion of electric and hybrid vehicles in the country.
- It aims to promote electric mobility by giving financial incentives for enhancing electric vehicle production and the creation of electric transportation infrastructure.
- Basically, the incentive is provided in the form of subsidies to manufacturers of electric vehicles and infrastructure providers of electric vehicles.
- The Scheme operates in two phases.
 - Phase I:** 2015 to March 31st, 2019

- **Phase II:** April 1st, 2019, will be completed by March 31st, 2022

6 THE FIRST SILK PROCESSING PLANT IN GUJARAT

- In a historic initiative was taken by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), a first Silk Processing Plant has been inaugurated at Surendranagar in Gujarat.
- The initiative aims to help cut down the cost of production of silk yarn drastically and increase the sale and availability of raw material for Gujarati Patola Sarees locally.

A brief note on Patola Sarees:

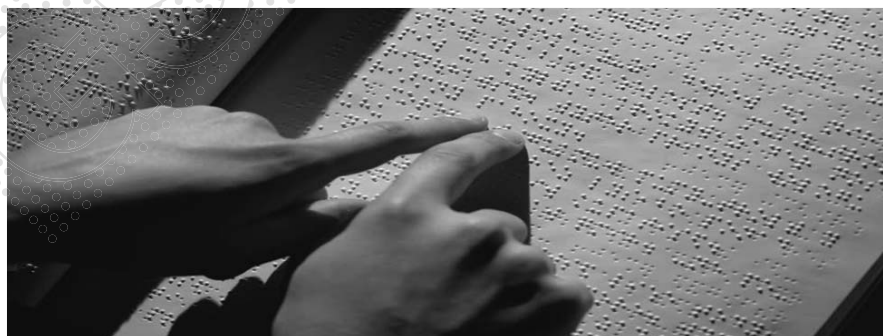
- Patola, the trademark Saree of Gujarat, is considered to be very costly and worn only by the Royals or the Aristocrat.
- Reason being the raw material silk yarn is purchased from Karnataka or West Bengal, where silk processing units are situated, thus increasing the cost of the fabric manifolds.
- Patola Silk Saree is amongst the top five silk weaves which are desired in every Indian Saree Lover's wardrobe.

7 WORLD BRAILLE DAY

- All India Radio News and its regional units in Pune and Nagpur have observed World Braille Day in an innovative way by broadcasting news read by Visually impaired students and officers.
- The news was scripted in Braille and read Live.

About World Braille Day:

- World Braille Day celebrated since 2019, is observed to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people.



Braille is a tactile representation of alphabetic and numerical symbols, using six dots to represent each letter and number and even musical, mathematical and scientific symbols. Braille (named after its inventor in 19th century France, Louis Braille) is used by blind and partially sighted people to read the same books and periodicals as those printed in a visual font. It is essential in the context of education, freedom of expression and opinion, as well as social inclusion, as reflected in Article 2 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

8

FIRST ANTARRASHTRIYA YOGA DIWAS MEDIA SAMMAN

- Acknowledging the positive role & responsibility of media in disseminating the outreach of Yoga in India and abroad, the Ministry of I&B had instituted the first Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS) in June 2019 to mark the contribution of media in spreading the message of Yoga.

The International Day of Yoga has been celebrated annually on 21 June since 2015. The idea of International Day of Yoga was first proposed by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, during his address at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on 27 September 2014.

- The Samman conferred on Media Houses is given under the following categories:
 - Thirty (30) Sammans under Three (3) categories will be conferred.
 - Eleven Sammans to be conferred under the category "Best Media Coverage of Yoga in Newspapers.
 - Eight Sammans to be conferred under the category "Best Media Coverage of Yoga in Television.
 - Eleven Sammans to be conferred under the category "Best Media Coverage of Yoga in Radio.
- The Samman comprised of a special medal/plaque/trophy and a citation.

9

THE NATIONAL STOCK EXCHANGE (NSE) KNOWLEDGE HUB

- The Government has inaugurated the **National Stock Exchange (NSE) Knowledge Hub**, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered learning ecosystem that will assist the banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector.
- It is also available on mobile and attempts to bring together world-class content and learners through this state-of-the-art and future-ready platform.

What NSE Knowledge Hub will do?

- **Match-making of behaviour & content:** The NSE Knowledge Hub will curate the content for learners from many internal, external and premium sources for the personalised learning experience.
- **Creating intelligent talents:** The NSE Knowledge Hub will enhance skills and help academic institutions in preparing future-ready talent for the financial service industry.

Role of Artificial Intelligence:

- Artificial intelligence (AI) is a wide-ranging branch of computer science concerned with building smart machines capable of performing tasks the typically require human intelligence.
- AI is an interdisciplinary science with multiple approaches, but advancements in machine learning and deep learning are creating a paradigm shift in virtually every sector of the tech industry.
- The use of AI will ensure that the skill up-gradation is affordable and accessible and helps in the creation of a workforce that is adequate for the requirements of the sector.
- AI and Machine Learning will contribute USD 1 trillion by 2035 and this is a good beginning by NSE to tap the potential of AI and use it as a tool to create a workforce in the BFSI sector in India.

10

NEW ENERGY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR AIR CONDITIONERS

The Central Government in consultation with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has notified **new energy performance standards** for Room Air Conditioner (RACs) on 30th October 2019.

The new standards:

- The **24°C** default setting has been made mandatory from Jan 1, 2020, for all room air conditioners covered under the ambit of BEE star-labelling program vide this notification.
- All brands and types of star labelled room air conditioners, namely, Multi-Stage Capacity Air Conditioners, Unitary Air Conditioners and Split Air Conditioners which are rated from one star to five star, based on their relative energy efficiencies up to a rated cooling capacity of 10,465 Watts (9,000 kcal/hour) and manufactured, commercially purchased or sold in India, shall ensure default setting of temperature in the room air conditioners at twenty-four degrees Celsius with effect from the 1st January 2020.

BACKGROUND:

- BEE launched the voluntary star labelling program for fixed-speed room air conditioners (RACs) in 2006, and this program became mandatory on 12th January 2009.
- Thereafter, in 2015, voluntary star labelling program for inverter room air conditioners was launched and which was made mandatory with effect from 1st January 2018.
- The BEE star labelling program for Room Air Conditioners now covers both fixed and inverter RAC up to a cooling capacity of 10,465 watts (2.97 TR).
- **ISEER (Indian Seasonal Energy efficiency ratio)** is the energy performance index used for Room Air Conditioners (RACs) and its assessment is based on the bin hours defined in ISO 16358.

BEE is a statutory body under the Ministry of Power, Government of India. It is assisted in developing policies and strategies with the primary objective of reducing the energy intensity of the Indian economy. It coordinates with designated consumers, designated agencies, and other organization to identify and utilize the existing resources and infrastructure, in performing the functions assigned to it under the Energy Conservation Act.

11

OPERATION SANKALP

Amid the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East, the Indian Navy continues to maintain its presence in the Gulf region as part of the 'Operation Sankalp' to ensure the security of its sea-borne trade and the safety of the Indian Flag merchant Vessels transiting through the region.

What is Operation Sankalp?

- Under the Operation Sankalp, launched in 2019, Indian Navy deployed, in the Gulf of Oman, to re-assure Indian Flagged Vessels operating/ transiting through the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman following the **maritime security incidents** in the region.
- **IN Ships Chennai** and **Sunayna** were deployed in the Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf to undertake Maritime Security operations. In addition, aerial surveillance by IN aircraft is also being undertaken in the area.

- The operation is being progressed in close coordination with all stakeholders including Ministry of Defence, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

12**INDIA & SWEDEN AGREED TO COOPERATE IN POLAR SCIENCE**

- Cabinet has approved Memorandum of Understanding between India and Sweden on cooperation in Polar Science.
- The MoU was signed on 2nd December 2019 during the visit of Their Majesties of the Kingdom of Sweden to India.

A note on India & Sweden:

- India and Sweden are both signatories to the **Antarctic Treaty** and to the **Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty on Environmental Protection**.
- Sweden as one of the eight "**Arctic States**" is one of the Member State in the **Arctic Council** whereas India has the **Observer Status** in the Arctic Council.
- Sweden has a vigorous scientific program in the **Polar Regions**, both in Arctic and Antarctic.
- India likewise, has sustained scientific research programs in both the Polar Regions as well as in the oceanic realm.

Polar regions or Frigid Zone include the regions of Earth surrounding its geographical poles (North Pole and South Pole) are known as Polar Regions.

13**MILAN 2020**

After successfully hosting the International Fleet Review (IFR) in Feb 2016, the City of Destiny Visakhapatnam is gearing up to host another International Naval event 'MILAN' in March 2020.

What is MILAN 2020?

- MILAN 2020 is a multilateral naval exercise aimed to enhance professional interaction between friendly foreign navies and learn from each other's strengths and best practices in the maritime domain.
- The Exercise with the theme 'Synergy Across the Seas' would provide an excellent opportunity for Operational Commanders of friendly foreign navies to interact with each other in areas of mutual interest.

14**FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS TO BE SET UP FOR SPEEDY DISPOSAL OF RAPE AND POCSO ACT CASES**

The Government is gearing for setting Fast Track Special Courts for Speedy Disposal of Rape and POCSO Act cases, as a part of **National Mission for Safety of Women (NMSW)**.

BACKGROUND:

- Incidents of rape and gang rape of minor girls below the age of twelve years and similar heinous crimes against women have shaken the conscience of the entire nation.
- Therefore, the offences of rape and gang rape of women and children require effective deterrence through fast and time-bound completion of the trial relating to sexual offences.
- To bring out more stringent provisions and expeditious trial and disposal of such cases, the Union of India enacted the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018.
- Accordingly, the Central Government has started a scheme for setting up of 1023 FTSCs across the country based on the pendency of subject cases obtained from various High Courts (1,66,882 numbers as on 31.03.2018) for time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and POCSO Act.

National Mission for Safety of Women (NMSW):

- The National Mission for Safety of Women (NMSW) covers all aspects from free medical care to legal aid to the victims of sexual assault by engaging public prosecutors in states and setting up of fast track courts.
- Out of total 31 States and UTs, so far, 24 have joined this scheme (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, NCT of Delhi, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, UT of Chandigarh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh) for setting up of 792 numbers of FTSCs/ including 354 exclusive POCSO courts.

15

INDIAN CYBER CRIME COORDINATION CENTRE (I4C)

- The Central Government has inaugurated the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and also dedicated National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal to the Nation. This state-of-the-art Centre is located in New Delhi.
- The 'I4C' is a 7 pronged scheme to fight cyber crimes that are on rise across the country.
- It has seven components:
 - National Cyber Crime Threat Analytics Unit
 - National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal
 - National Cyber Crime Training Centre
 - Cyber Crime Ecosystem Management Unit
 - National Cyber Crime Research and Innovation Centre
 - National Cyber Crime Forensic Laboratory Ecosystem
 - Platform for Joint Cyber Crime Investigation Team.
- The scheme to setup I4C was approved in October 2018 to deal with all types of cybercrimes in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.

About National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal:

- National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (www.cybercrime.gov.in) is a citizen-centric initiative that will enable citizens to report cyber crimes online through the portal.
- All the cyber crime related complaints will be accessed by the concerned law enforcement agencies in the States and Union Territories for taking action as per law.
- This portal was launched on pilot basis on 30th August, 2019 and it enables filing of all cyber crimes with specific focus on crimes against women, children, particularly child pornography, child sex abuse material, online content pertaining to rapes/gang rapes, etc.

- In future, this portal will provide for chatbot for automated interactive assistance system to the public for guidance on cybercrime prevention and how to report incidents on the portal.

16 INDIA'S ENERGY POLICY REPORT

The government released the 'State Energy Efficiency Index 2019', which tracks the progress of Energy Efficiency (EE) initiatives in 36 states and union territories based on 97 significant indicators.

About the Index:

- The index is developed by **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** in association with **Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE)**.
- The first such Index, the "State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index 2018", was launched on August 1, 2018.

Key Takeaways for States

- 'State EE Index 2019' shows that majority of the initiatives taken by states are related to Policies and Regulations.
- Most of the first-generation energy efficiency policies prepared by BEE under programmes on Standards & Labelling (S&L), ECBC, Perform Achieve & Trade (PAT), etc. are understood by states and as the next steps they should focus on ensuring greater compliance to achieve savings.
- Based on the analysis of responses submitted by states this year, a three-point agenda is suggested for consideration by state agencies:
 - **Focusing on implementation:** Proactive role by states in policy formulation and implementation to shift the focus from "policies in place" to "policies successfully implemented".
 - **Strengthening the mechanism:** State Designated Agencies should further enhance their engagement with state departments and private sector to enable a robust mechanism for Energy Data Management System.
 - **Enhancing the credibility of EE schemes:** Ensuring the integrity of programs that have direct or indirect linkages with common consumers is significant to energy efficiency market transformation. States must demonstrate an approach which includes enforcement and compliance checks as well as independent monitoring and verification of savings, which is integral to all EE policies and programs.

17 REFURBISHED HERITAGE BUILDINGS IN KOLKATA

- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation Four Refurbished Heritage Buildings in Kolkata- Old Currency Building, the Belvedere House, the Metcalfe House and the Victoria Memorial Hall.
- The upgraded and renovated versions of these historic buildings will now be open to hosting world-class art festivals or exhibitions, with immediate effect.
- The buildings are now being converted into vibrant cultural spaces for theatre or music festivals in the heart of the city too.

Important facts of the Heritage Sites:

- **Old Currency Building:**
 - The Currency Building in the Dalhousie area was constructed in 1833 bearing European architecture.

- This is a handsome three storied building, designed in Italian style, the walls were made of brick.
- It is still one of the oldest buildings that operated as a bank in the country.
- As the name suggests, it served as Reserve Bank of India (RBI) after which it degraded till in 2002. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) declared it a protected monument.
- **The Belvedere House:**
 - Belvedere House is said to have been Warren Hastings' abode till the 1780s.
 - It is believed to be one of the many houses built by Mir Jafar (who became the Nawab of Bengal after betraying Siraj-ud-daulah in the Battle of Plassey).
 - Belvedere House was the former palace for the Viceroy of India and later the Governor of Bengal.
 - Belvedere is currently the National Library of India.
- **The Metcalfe House:**
 - The Metcalfe Hall was erected as its name imparts to perpetuate the memory of Lord Metcalfe, who officiated as Governor General of India from March 1835 to March 1836.
 - It was originally conceptualised as a Public Library later on housed the Imperial Library.
- **The Victoria Memorial Hall:**
 - Built between 1906 and 1921, the Victoria Memorial Hall is dedicated to the memory of **Queen Victoria**.
 - Now, it is a museum and tourist destination under the auspices of the **Ministry of Culture**.

18

INDIA AND BANGLADESH TO COOPERATE IN INFORMATION & BROADCASTING SECTOR

- In a latest development, India and Bangladesh signed key agreements in the field of Information and Broadcasting at the Information and Broadcasting Minister's meet 2020.
- A formal co-production agreement was signed on the biopic of "**BangaBandhu**", Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which will be released during the birth centenary year of Bangabandhu.
- Bangladesh has decided to celebrate the 'Mujib Year' from March 17, 2020 to March 17, 2021 to mark the centenary year of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the first President of Bangladesh.
- Deepening India's engagement with Bangladesh, an airtime exchange programme between Prasar Bharati and Bangladesh Radio Betar was also launched.
- With this, content from Maitree service has started airing in Dhaka and reciprocally content from Bangladesh Radio Betar has started airing on All India Radio in Kolkata.
