

April - 08

NATIONAL

IMPRINT-II

- ❖ The Ministry of Human Resource Development has sanctioned Rs. 1000 crore for phase II of Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India programme to boost research and innovation in the country.
- ❖ Under the IMPRINT-II, a fund is being created by Department of Science and Technology (DST) under Ministry of Science and Technology and HRD Ministry together.
- ❖ In that participation will come from industry and other interested Ministries. The project will be run as a separate vertical in coordination with DST.
- ❖ IMPRINT India Programme is a joint initiative of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc).



- ❖ It seeks to develop a roadmap for research to solve major engineering and technology challenges in 10 technology domains relevant for the country.

ECONOMY

SEBI

- ❖ The Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has relaxed algorithm trading norms at commodity derivatives exchanges.

- ❖ The market regulator has raised the limit of trading using algorithm trading process up to 100 orders per second by the user from the existing limit of 20 orders per second.
- ❖ The decision was taken after receiving representations from exchanges along with views of SEBI's subcommittee- Commodity Derivatives Advisory Committee.
- ❖ SEBI has asked exchanges to ensure that limit provided by it is subject to its ability to handle the load

Algorithmic trading

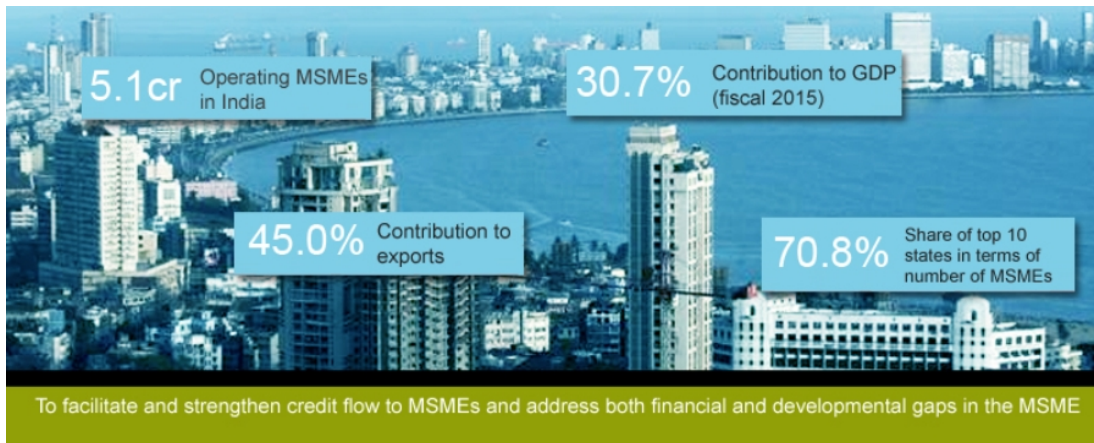
- ❖ It was introduced in India in 2009. Algorithmic trading in financial markets refers to transaction orders generated by using advanced mathematical models that involve automated execution of the trade.
- ❖ It uses mathematical models and software codes to make transaction decisions on exchanges and execute them at high speed.
- ❖ At present, on National Stock Exchange (NSE), algorithm trades accounts close to 16% of all trades. On the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), it was 8.56% in January 2017.

SIDBI

- ❖ The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) celebrated its foundation day this year on April 2, 2018.
- ❖ The day was celebrated as a day of Sampark (connect), Sanwad (interaction), Suraksha (security) and Sampreshan (disseminate).
- ❖ MSME contact programme; Samridhhi, a virtual assistant; revamped SIDBI website (www.sidbi.in) and Bankability Kit were launched on this occasion.
- ❖ It was established on April 2, 1990, through an Act of Parliament (thus, it is the statutory body). It is headquartered in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

SIDBI

- ❖ SIDBI is the principal development financial institution for promotion, financing, and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in India.



- ❖ SIDBI aims to facilitate and strengthen credit flow to MSMEs and address both financial and developmental gaps in MSME eco-system across the country.

Startup Blink Report

- ❖ According to report released by global start-up ecosystem map Start-up Blink, India was ranked 37th out of 125 countries in global start-up ecosystem in 2017.
- ❖ It's report prepared in association with ANSYS Start-up Program measures start-up ecosystem strength and activity.

World Rank	Country Name	Quantity Score	Quality Score	Business Score	Total Score
1	United States	14.066	31.826	9.000	54.892
2	United Kingdom	2.056	6.686	9.000	17.742
3	Canada	1.261	6.586	9.000	16.847
4	Israel	0.617	5.528	8.800	14.946
5	Germany	1.075	3.259	9.000	13.334
6	Sweden	0.284	3.469	9.000	12.753
7	Denmark	0.184	3.107	9.000	12.291
8	Switzerland	0.377	3.111	8.800	12.288
9	France	0.705	2.512	8.800	12.016
10	Singapore	0.144	2.646	9.000	11.790
11	Australia	0.896	1.591	9.000	11.487
12	China	0.387	2.115	8.500	11.001



World Rank	Country Name	Quantity Score	Quality Score	Business Score	Total Score
31	Bulgaria	0.129	0.119	8.800	9.049
32	United Arab Emirates	0.111	0.093	8.800	9.004
33	Chile	0.184	0.201	8.500	8.885
34	Turkey	0.277	0.087	8.500	8.864
35	Ukraine	0.223	0.113	8.500	8.836
36	Greece	0.166	0.089	8.500	8.755
37	India	1.665	0.437	6.500	8.602
38	South Africa	0.141	1.443	7.000	8.584

- ❖ Top 5 Countries in Global start-up ecosystem in 2017 are United States (1st), United Kingdom (2nd), Canada (3rd), Israel (4th) and Germany (5th).
- ❖ In Asia, the list was topped by Singapore (10th) and was closely followed by China (12th), South Korea (17th), and Japan (20th).
- ❖ In Africa, the list was topped by South Africa (38th) followed by Kenya (53rd), Egypt (54th), and Nigeria (57th).

Start-up Blink

- ❖ Start-up Blink is a global start-up ecosystem map with tens of thousands of registered start-ups, coworking spaces, and accelerators.
- ❖ It includes a global ranking index of 125 countries and 900 cities, measuring their start-up ecosystem strength and activity.
- ❖ The rankings of the country are based on thousands of data points gathered from various sources, such as incubators and accelerators that appear on Start-up Blink global ecosystem.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PFMS

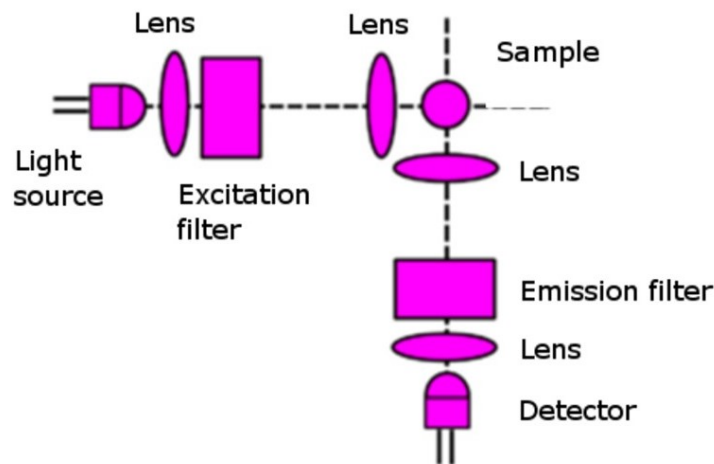
- ❖ The Public Financial Management System (PFMS) portal has processed record Rs 71,633 crore transactions in a single day.
- ❖ This was a historical record-breaking volume of digital transactions achieved by PFMS.

- ❖ It is an end-to-end solution for processing payments, tracking, monitoring, accounting, reconciliation, and reporting.
- ❖ It is implemented by Controller General of Accounts and administered by the Department of Expenditure, both in Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ Various ministries/departments utilize this platform to monitor utilization of funds provided to the implementing agencies and states governments.
- ❖ PFMS has also used for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) payments under MGNREGA and other notified schemes of the Government of India.
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Fluorimeter

- ❖ The Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology (RRCAT), an Indore-based unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has developed an instrument called Fluorimeter, to measure traces of uranium in water.
- ❖ The device is capable of examining traces of uranium in a sample of water from 0.1 PPB (Parts-per-billion) unit to 100 PPB.

Principle of Fluorimeter



- ❖ For mass production of this instrument, DAE has transferred its technology to its other unit, Electronics Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL).
- ❖ The device will be especially helpful in areas like Punjab where uranium traces in water sources have been found to be at dangerous levels.

- ❖ Uranium is a radioactive element. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has fixed a permissible radiological limit to 60 PPB of uranium concentration for drinking water.

ENVIRONMENT

CA|TS Partnership - Tiger Survey

- ❖ According to a recent survey, only 13% of tiger conservation areas that are part of Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) Partnership meets global standards.
- ❖ The survey was conducted over hundred tiger conservation areas by 11 leading conservation organizations and countries with tiger range that are part of CA|TS Partnership.

A rapid assessment of management effectiveness against the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards

Safe Havens for Wild Tigers



Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) aims to help stabilise and rebuild tiger populations throughout their range by ensuring effective management. It is an accreditation system, where participating tiger conservation areas provide evidence demonstrating that they meet a range of agreed management standards, which together should ensure effective tiger conservation.

To gain a better understanding of the challenges that tiger range governments face in protecting wild tigers and to provide a baseline for CA|TS implementation, a rapid survey was undertaken of current management in 112 sites throughout the tiger range.

- ❖ The surveyed area is home to approximately 70% of the world's wild tigers.
- ❖ The survey found that at least one-third of tiger conservation these areas are severely at risk of losing their tigers and most of these sites are in Southeast Asia.

About Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) Partnership

- ❖ It was officially launched in 2013 and was developed by a tiger and protected area experts.

- ❖ CA|TS is set of criteria that allow tiger conservation areas to check if their management will lead to successful tiger conservation.
- ❖ It is organized into seven pillars and 17 elements of critical management activity. Its mission is to secure safe havens for wild tigers.
- ❖ It is an important part of Tx2, World Wildlife Fund's global tiger programme that aims to double wild tiger number by the year 2022.

STATES

Hindon Elevated Road

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister inaugurated Hindon Elevated Road, India's longest elevated road in Ghaziabad.
- ❖ It connects UP Gate to Rajnagar Extension and will make it easier to commute between Delhi and Ghaziabad.
- ❖ It has been built on Transit-oriented development (TOD) basis, a type of urban planning that makes public transportation easily accessible to residential, business and leisure space.

Rupa shree scheme

- ❖ West Bengal government has launched a scheme called "Rupa shree" to ensure safe future for young women.



GOVERNMENT OF
WEST BENGAL

Rupashree Scheme

West Bengal

(Assistance for marriage of poor
women)

- ❖ Under this scheme, the government provides one-time financial support for marriage of poor girls. Rs. 25,000 will be credited to girl's bank account

- ❖ Previously West Bengal government has launched Kanya Shree scheme to promote education among women.

Two-tier Panchayati Raj

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh Assembly passed Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill 2018 to do away with the Anchal Samiti, the intermediate level of the three-tier Panchayati Raj system and set up a two-tier system in the state.
- ❖ This is being done as per 73rd Amendment of Constitution that enables state having less than 20 lakh population not to have an intermediate level and Arunachal has a population of 13.84 lakh.
- ❖ Three-tier Panchayati Raj institutions were set up in the state in 2003, 2008 and 2013, and elections for next five-year term were due in April-May 2018.
- ❖ In two-tier Panchayati Raj system, planning and execution of schemes will be faster as there will be a direct connection between Gram Panchayats and Zilla Parishads, the village and district levels of Panchayati Raj system.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Satya Pal Malik - Governor of Odisha (additional charge)

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind has given Bihar Governor Satya Pal Malik (72) additional charge of Odisha until regular arrangements are made.
- ❖ He was given additional charge after incumbent governor S C Jamir completed his five-year tenure.
- ❖ The five-time Chief Minister of Nagaland S C Jamir had taken over as Odisha governor in March 2013 after serving as governor of Goa and Maharashtra.
- ❖ He had also been given additional charge of Gujarat in 2009.
