

January - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals (BRIEF) has released a report highlighting the impact of trade shutdown between India and Pakistan on people across borders.
 - The report is called “Unilateral Decisions, Bilateral Losses”.

TAMIL NADU

Tiger Sharks

- ❖ The 222 Squadron of Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets was inducted by the Indian Air Force in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The squadron has been named “Tiger Sharks”.
- ❖ So far there are 12 squadrons of Tiger Sharks inducted in India including the one recently inducted in Tamil Nadu.



- ❖ The Squadron is being inducted in Tamil Nadu to check the fast-expanding strategic footprint of China in the Indian Ocean Region.
- ❖ China had established its first military base/overseas army support base in Djibouti in the region surrounding Horn of Africa.

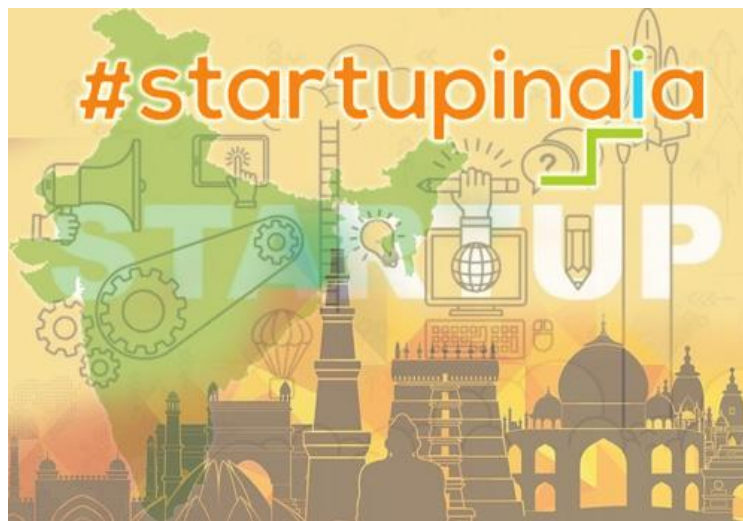
NATIONAL

Tech Conclave 2020

- ❖ The National Informatics Centre (NIC) held technology Conclave in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Technology Conclave will discuss application of Information and Communication Technology.
- ❖ The conclave is to be held under the theme: Technologies for NextGen Governance.
- ❖ Recently, NIC launched a Centre for Block Chain Technology in Bengaluru.

Republic Day Parade 2020

- ❖ The Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) operating under Ministry of Commerce and Industry is to showcase tableau on Start Up India at the Republic Day Parade to be held at Rajpath, New Delhi.
- ❖ The tableau is to be held under the theme: Reach for the sky.



- ❖ This is the first time Start Up India is participating at the Parade.
- ❖ The Indian Navy is to showcase its tableau at the Republic Day parade under the theme: Indian Navy-Silent, Strong and Swift.
- ❖ In 2020 republic day parade, Tania Shergil becomes the first woman officer to lead all-men contingent.

INTERNATIONAL



Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement (BIPA)

- ❖ The European Union (EU) has expressed interest in exploring a Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement (BIPA) with India.
- ❖ It would be delinked from the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) where ongoing negotiations are in a state of limbo.
- ❖ On 2007, India and the EU began negotiations on a broad-based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) in Brussels, Belgium.

About BIPA

- ❖ It is one such bilateral treaty which is defined as an agreement between two countries (or States) for the reciprocal encouragement, promotion and protection of investments in each other's territories by the companies based in either country (or State).
- ❖ From the Indian angle, bilateral investment treaties not only encourage capital flows into India but also provide safe business environment for Indian investors abroad.
- ❖ India signed the first BIPA with UK in 1994.

Global Social Mobility Index

- ❖ The World Economic Forum released the Social Mobility Index.
- ❖ The index measures social mobility of the population worldwide.
- ❖ Social Mobility is the upward or downward movement of an individual in personal circumstances in relation to their parents.
- ❖ The countries' social mobility was measured based on following 5 key dimensions as follows
 - Health
 - Education-Quality, Access and Equity
 - Technology
 - Work-Wages, conditions and opportunities
 - Protections and Institutions-Inclusive institutions and social protection
- ❖ Relative Social Mobility is the assessment of effect of socio-economic background on a person's life.
- ❖ According to the report, Denmark ranks the first followed by Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland.
- ❖ India is ranked 76th out of 82 countries.

- ❖ The Areas of improvement for India include social protection (76th) and fair wage distribution (79th).
- ❖ According to the report, the fourth industrial revolution has created several social inequalities.



Global Investment Trend Monitor Report

- ❖ The United Nation Conference on Trade and Development released its report on Global Investment Trend Monitor Report for the year 2019.
- ❖ China remained the topmost FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) recipient in the world as it was in 2018 followed by the United States.
- ❖ The United States in 2019 attracted 251 billion USD FDI and the inflows of China was 140 billion USD.
- ❖ According to the report, FDI in South Asia increased by 10% as compared to 2018.
- ❖ The growth of FDI in South Asia was mainly due to India.
- ❖ In 2019, the India's FDI was 49 billion USD.
- ❖ The report says that FDI in 2019 has increased by 16% in India as compared to 2018.
- ❖ The majority of the input in India went into Information Technology.

ECONOMY

Bilateral International Treaty organization

- ❖ The Bilateral International Treaty organization (BIT), an international arbitration tribunal, recently dismissed all the claims against India.



- ❖ The claims against India was brought the organization by private firms in Cyprus and Russia.
- ❖ BIT is an agreement that was established for FDI.
- ❖ It allows countries to set up rules for investments between each other.
- ❖ The treaty is the successor of the 19th century friendship, commerce and navigation treaty.
- ❖ The first BIT was signed between Pakistan and Germany.
- ❖ BIT ensures that foreign investors are treated equally as that of domestic investors.
- ❖ It is important for India to sign BIT to make conditions favourable for foreign investors.
- ❖ While most of the treaties in the world focus on 'most favored Nation' treatment, BIT treats foreign countries equally.
- ❖ India has so far signed BIT with 75 states.

ENVIRONMENT

Paperless licensing process

- ❖ The Department of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has launched paperless licensing process for petroleum service stations under Petroleum Rules, 2002.
- ❖ The implementing agency of the order would be Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO).
- ❖ PESO is a department formed under DPIIT and both the bodies work under Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ It controls the export, import, storage, transport and usage of explosive materials.
- ❖ PESO administers the following acts
 - Explosive Act, 1884,
 - Petroleum Act 1934,
 - Explosive Substance Act,
 - Inflammable Substance Act 1952,
 - Environment Protection Act 1986.

Carbon Disclosure Project

- ❖ The Carbon Disclosure Project is an annual report on carbon reduction activities of different countries and their firms.

- ❖ It was released by a non-profit organization Global Reporting Initiative.
- ❖ According to the report, the countries were ranked based on their corporate responsibilities of carbon reduction.
- ❖ Among the Indian Companies, Infosys, Dalmia Cement and Tata Motors have reported 100% Renewable Energy consumption.
- ❖ United States topped the list with 135 companies in this list.
- ❖ Followed by US, Japan ranked second with 83 companies.
- ❖ On the third, fourth and fifth ranks were UK (78), France (51) and India (38) respectively.

STATES

Pune-Mumbai Hyperloop project

- ❖ The proposed Pune-Mumbai Hyperloop project may be scrapped by the Maharashtra state government.
- ❖ It is an ultra-modern transport system that will reduce the travelling time between the two cities to 25 minutes from 2.5-3 hours.
- ❖ The state has expressed reservations about the project that was still in its experimental stage, and had not been “implemented anywhere in the world”.

SPEEDY PODS

■ In Hyperloop, passengers and freight are carried in **Pods** via electro-magnetic propulsion through a low-pressure tube

■ The medium is a fast, direct-to-destination transport mode. It can achieve speed of up to **1,080km per hour**

WHAT IT MEANS

- If Hyperloop becomes a reality, one can travel from Pune to Mumbai in **14 minutes**
- The project for the **100km** stretch would cost about **₹26,000 crore**
- The per kilometre estimated cost is **₹260 crore**

BABY STEPS

- The Hyperloop technology is in its nascent stage
- The world's first full-scale Hyperloop test site was developed in Las Vegas
- Projects are under way in the Netherlands, Abu Dhabi to Dubai, and Stockholm to Helsinki

- ❖ It is a transportation system where a pod-like vehicle is propelled through a near-vacuum tube connecting cities at speeds matching that of an aircraft.
- ❖ The hyperloop concept is a brainchild of Tesla founder Elon Musk.

