India signs loan for several Projects with ADB

NATIONAL NEWS

Eye Cancer therapy – Developed By BARC

- Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai has developed Eye Cancer therapy for treatment of Ocular Tumours.
- The therapy is in the form of the first indigenous Ruthenium 106 Plaque which are at par with international standards.

Facts:

- Director of BARC: Ajit Kumar Mohanty

PM lays foundation stone of Light House projects (LHPs) across six states

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Light House projects (LHPs) under Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC)- at six sites across six States, on 1st January 2021 through video conference.
- These light house projects will be made up of modern technology and innovative processes and reduce the construction time and make a more resilient, affordable and comfortable house for the poor.
- These light house projects will be made up of modern technology and innovative processes and reduce the construction time and make a more resilient, affordable and comfortable house for the poor.

Digital Ocean Data – Developed by INCOIS of Environment Ministry

- Digital Ocean – a web-based application was inaugurated by Union Minister for Earth Sciences, Science & Technology.
- Digital Ocean platform is a first of its kind platform for ocean data management was developed by INCOIS under Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- It includes a set of applications developed to organize and present heterogeneous oceanographic data by adopting rapid advancements in geospatial technology.

TiHAN-IIT Hyderabad Inaugurated

- TiHAN-IIT Hyderabad, India's first Test bed for Autonomous Navigation Systems (Terrestrial and Aerial).
- Project TiHAN was developed at the cost of Rs. 135 crores to IIT Hyderabad under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)
- This project aims to set up a Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems (UAVs, RoVs, etc.).
- The hub's focus sectors include Intelligent, Autonomous Transportation and Systems, Agriculture, Surveillance, and Environmental & Infrastructure Monitoring.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Mission Sagar III – Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief Ship reaches Cambodia

- INS Kiltan has arrived at Sihanoukville Port, Cambodia on 29th December as a part of Mission Sagar.
- Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) was launched in 2015. It is India's strategic vision for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

BUSINESS NEWS

India signs loan for several Projects with ADB

- ADB and Government of India has signed loan agreement for developmental projects in the states of Assam and Haryana
- The Project to expand the horticulture in Himachal Pradesh is to be supported with a loan of $10 million.
- Another loan of $231 million is provided to enhance power generation capacity in Assam.

Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme implemented

- The Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme was announced by Government of India (GOI) on 14 September 2019 to boost exports by allowing reimbursement of taxes and duties, which are not exempted or refunded under any other scheme in accordance with World Trade Organization (WTO) norms.

- The RoDTEP was to be implemented from 1st January 2021.

IFSCA becomes member of IOSCO

- The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has become an Associate Member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).
- The IOSCO is the international organization that brings together the world's securities regulators, covering more than 95% of the world's securities markets, and is the global standard setter for the securities sector.
- The membership of IOSCO would provide IFSCA the platform to exchange information at the global level and regional level on areas of common interests.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman & CEO of Railway Board

- Shri SuneetSharma, has taken over the charge of new Chairman & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) and ex-officio Principal Secretary to Government of India.
- The appointments committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shri Suneet Sharma as Chairman & CEO of Railway Board.

AWARDS & PRIZES

Digital India Awards 2020

- President Ram Nath Kovind gave the Digital India Awards 2020 to the winners virtually.
- The 6th Digital India Awards 2020 have been announced under the following six categories:
    - INNOVATION IN PANDEMIC - eSanjeevani - National Telemedicine Services
    - EXCELLENCE IN DIGITAL GOVERNANCE (Central Ministry/Department) - eCommittee Supreme Court of India, Department of Justice
    - EXCELLENCE IN DIGITAL GOVERNANCE (State/UT) – Haryana
    - EXCELLENCE IN DIGITAL GOVERNANCE (DISTRICT) - Khargone, Madhya Pradesh
    - OPEN DATA CHAMPION - Department of Health and Family Welfare
    - EXEMPLARY PRODUCT - Port Community System PCS1x - National Maritime Single Window
- National Informatics Centre (NIC) under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has been conducting the biennial Digital India Awards (DIA) to promote innovation in eGovernance and digital transformation of government service delivery mechanism.