

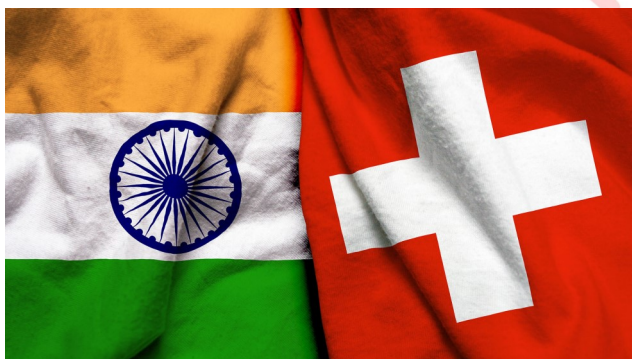
11.05.21

National Technology Day



- The day is celebrated every year on the 11th of May to highlight the achievements of engineers and scientists in the field of technology and science.
- Former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee coined this term to celebrate the contributions made by Indian scientists.
- This day marks the anniversary of 1998 Pokhran Nuclear tests.
- It is a reminder of the technological advancements and accomplishments of our scientists that enabled India to mark its presence globally.

4th India-Swiss Financial Dialogue held virtually



- Shri Ajay Seth, Secretary Economic Affairs led the Indian delegation.
- The delegation from the Swiss side was led by Ms. Daniela Stoffel, State Secretary, State Secretariat for International Finance, Switzerland.
- The Indian delegation included representatives from Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Revenue, Department of Financial Services and Ministry of External Affairs.
- The Dialogue, inter-alia, covered sharing of experiences by both countries for collaboration on various aspects including investments, International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA), National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), FinTech, sustainable finance and cross border financial services.
- Further, matters relating to G20, IMF and tax challenges arising from the digitilisation of the economy was discussed along with infrastructure financing.
- Both the countries shared views and perspective on their respective countries and global economic scenario.
- India and Switzerland have had cordial and friendly relations based on shared values of democracy and rule of law.
- India's policy of non-alignment and Switzerland's traditional policy of neutrality has led to a close understanding between the two countries.
- Both the countries have several bilateral dialogue mechanisms in place and this Financial Dialogue remains amongst the most important.

IREDA bags “Green Urja Award”



- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. IREDA has been conferred with “Green Urja Award” for being the Leading Public Institution in Financing Institution for Renewable Energy this year by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC).
- The award was received by Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), IREDA from Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliance in presence of Shri Anil Razdan, Chairman, ICC National Expert Committee on Energy in a virtual ceremony held today.
- IREDA gets the award for the pivotal and developmental role it plays in Green Energy Financing.
- The award recognises our immense contribution in development of Renewable Energy Sector in line with the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.
- IREDA under the administrative control of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) is the only dedicated institution for financing Renewable Energy (RE) & Energy Efficiency (EE) projects in India.
- Since, its inception the company has played a catalytic role in developing market for financing RE & EE projects.

DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION



Key recommendations in the report include:

- Strengthening the payment infrastructure to promote a level playing field for NBFCs and banks.
- Digitizing registration and compliance processes and diversifying credit sources to enable growth opportunities for MSMEs.

- NITI Aayog and Mastercard released a report titled ‘Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat’.
- The report identifies challenges in accelerating digital financial inclusion in India and provides recommendations for making digital services accessible to its 1.3 billion citizens.

- Building information sharing systems, including a 'fraud repository', and ensuring that online digital commerce platforms carry warnings to alert consumers to the risk of frauds.
- Enabling agricultural NBFCs to access low-cost capital and deploy a 'phygital' (physical + digital) model for achieving better long-term digital outcomes.
- Digitizing land records will also provide a major boost to the sector.
- To make city transit seamlessly accessible to all with minimal crowding and queues, leveraging existing smartphones and contactless cards, and aim for an inclusive, interoperable, and fully open system such as that of the London 'Tube'.

S. JANAKIRAMAN ADVISORY GROUP



- The Reserve Bank said an advisory group had been constituted to assist the second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA) which was set up by the central bank earlier this month to streamline regulations and reduce the compliance burden of regulated entities.
- Headed by SBI Managing Director S. Janakiraman, the group will assist the RRA by identifying regulations, guidelines, and returns that can be rationalised.
- The group will assist the RRA by identifying areas, regulations, guidelines, returns which can be rationalised and submit reports periodically to RRA containing the recommendations/suggestions.

RUPSI AIRPORT



- An airport built for warplanes in 1939 took commercial wings, heralding the best of times for western Assam's Dhubri district.
- Rupsi airport near Gauripur, about 15 km from district headquarters Dhubri, was one of South Asia's largest airports with a 1.8 km runway used by Allied aircraft for supplying arms, manpower and ammunition to forces in Burma and China during World War II.
- Rupsi is Assam's 7th airport and 15th in the northeast including Pakyong in Sikkim. Commercial flights were allowed later.
- India's Partition in 1947 began eroding the airport's importance. It was abandoned after the last flight — a Vayudoot from Dhubri to Guwahati — took off in 1983.
- Flybig, an Indore-based company, would be operating the Kolkata-Guwahati-Rupsi flight under the subsidised UDAAN scheme for regional connectivity.
- Rupsi is vital not only for western Assam. It used to and again will cater to the people of western Meghalaya, Cooch Behar and Alipurduar districts of West Bengal and south-western Bhutan, besides fuelling small-scale industries.

Bahrain Prince scales Mt Everest's new height, 1st int'l team to do so



- A 16-member Bahrain Royal Guard team led by prince Mohammed Hamad Mohammed Al Khalifa has become the first international team to conquer the new altitude of Mount Everest, Mira Acharya, Department of Tourism Director said.
- Nepal and China last year jointly announced that the revised height of the world's highest peak was 8,848.86 metres, 86cm more than the previous measurement.

China's population grows by 0.53% over the past 10 years



- China's population grew at its slowest pace in decades, according to data released by its government.
- The average annual growth rate was 0.53% over the past 10 years, down from a rate of 0.57% between 2000 and 2010, bringing the population to 1.41 billion.
- The pool of potential workers aged 15 to 59 shrank to 894 million, data further showed.

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