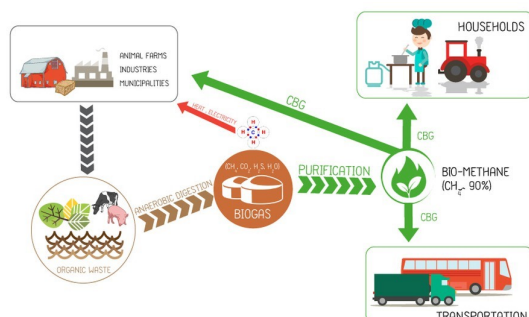


# Daily News Decode

02.06.21

## SATAT SCHEME



- Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas presided over a virtual ceremony in which a number of initiatives were launched to provide major fillip to the SATAT initiative.
- This included signing of a Cooperation Agreement by Oil and Gas majors including IndianOil, HPCL, BPCL, GAIL and IGL, for the promotion and development of the SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) scheme.
- The SATAT scheme aims to set up Compressed Bio-Gas production plants and make CBG available in the market for use as a green fuel.
- 'SATAT', launched on 1.10.2018, envisages to target production of 15 MMT of CBG from 5000 plants by 2023.
- Besides the potential to boost availability of more affordable transport fuels, better use of agricultural residue, cattle dung and municipal solid waste, the 5000 CBG plants will provide an investment of 1.75 lakh crore, an additional revenue source to farmers, and 75,000 direct job opportunities and lakhs of indirect jobs.
- The minister also laid the foundation stones of 5 upcoming CBG Plants.
- He also inaugurated the first injection of CBG into the CGD pipeline network at Govardhannathji Energies into Gujarat Gas CGD network at Nadiad Kheda Distt., Gujarat.

## Government e-Marketplace (GeM)



- Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs Piyush Goyal called upon Government e-Marketplace (GeM), public procurement portal to expand its scope and include more participants in GeM portal for public procurement of both Products & Services.

### Benefits:

- **Transparency:** GeM eliminates human interface in vendor registration, order placement and payment processing, to a great extent.
- **Efficiency:** Direct purchase on GeM can be done in a matter of minutes.
- **Secure and safe:** GeM is a completely secure platform and all the documents on GeM are e-Signed at various stages by the buyers and sellers.
- **Savings to the Government:** The transparency, efficiency and ease of use of the GeM portal has resulted in a substantial reduction in prices on GeM.

- GeM is an online market place that was launched in 2016.
- Objective: To ensure that public procurement of goods and services in India (done by government bodies) worth more than Rs. 5 lakh crore annually is carried out through the online platform.
- It has been developed by Directorate General of Supplies and Disposal (DGS&D) with technical support of National E-Governance Division (NEGD), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

## PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI) SCHEME OF PHARMACEUTICALS



- Government of India issued Operational guidelines for Production Linked Incentive Scheme of Pharmaceuticals.
- The scheme is now open to applications from the industry.
- With an aim to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities by increasing investment and production in the sector and to contribute to product diversification to high value goods in the pharmaceutical sector, Department of Pharmaceuticals notified the 'Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Pharmaceuticals' 3rd March, 2021.
- The approved outlay of the scheme is Rs 15000 crore.
- The applications are invited in three groups based on the Global Manufacturing Revenue of FY 2019-20 of the applicants. A special carve out for MSMEs has been kept under the scheme.
- All the applications will be submitted through an online portal maintained by SIDBI, the Project Management Agency for the scheme.
- The eligible products have been categorized into three categories.
- The products covered under the scheme are formulations, biopharmaceuticals, active pharmaceutical ingredients, key starting material, drug intermediates, in-vitro diagnostic medical devices, etc.
- The category-1 and category-2 products attract 10% incentive and category-3 products attract 5% incentive on the incremental sales.
- Incremental sales of a product mean sales of that product in a year over and above the sales of that product in FY 2019-2020.

## RDSO Becomes First Standards Body to Join 'One Nation, One Standard' Scheme



- Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO), which sets standards for the Indian Railway Sector, has become the first standards body in the country to join the 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme of the central government.
- The RDSO, the sole R&D wing of the Railways Ministry, has now been recognised as a 'Standard Developing Organisation' by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), for a three years period.
- BIS is the implementing agency for the 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme. RDSO and BIS will be now jointly defining the parameters to ensure quality goods and services for the Railways.
- The 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme was launched in 2019 with the objective to develop one template of standard for one given product in the country, instead of having multiple agencies set it, thereby building a 'Brand India' identity in the long run.

## WHO names Covid-19 variants first found in India as 'Kappa' and 'Delta'



- The UN health agency, World Health Organisation (WHO), has given easy-to-say labels to two variants of the Covid-19, first found in India.
- The two variants are B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2. The B.1.617.1 variant of the Covid 19 has been named as 'Kappa' while the B1.617.2 variant is named as 'Delta.'
- The naming of these variants do not aim at replacing the existing scientific names of these #SARSCoV2 Variants of Concern (VOCs) & Interest (VOIs), but is aimed at helping the public discussion about VOI/VOC.

## Justice A.K. Mishra to head NHRC



- Former Supreme Court judge Arun Kumar Mishra will be the new chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) after a high-powered recommendation committee proposed his name.
- The selection panel consisted of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge.



- Former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Mahesh Mittal Kumar, and former Director of Intelligence Bureau, Rajiv Jain, had also been recommended by the high-powered panel as members of the NHRC but the official notification is yet to be out until the filing of this report.

## T.M. Kaliannan, last surviving member of Constituent Assembly, passes away



- T.M. Kalliannan Gounder, the last surviving former member of the Indian Constituent Assembly, died at the age of 101.
- He served as a Member of the Legislative Council in Tamil Nadu and also as an MLA thrice, between 1952 and 1967.
- He was reportedly the youngest member in the Constituent Assembly then and also a member of India's first provisional parliament.
- The Constituent Assembly of India, consisting of indirectly elected representatives, was established to draft a constitution for India (including the now-separate countries of Pakistan and Bangladesh). It existed for approx. three years, the first parliament of India after independence in 1947.

## 30 January - World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day ('World NTD Day').



- 74th World Health Assembly endorsed a decision recognizing 30 January as World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day ('World NTD Day').
- World NTD Day commemorates the simultaneous launch of the first NTD road map and the London Declaration on NTDs on 30 January 2012.
- For countries where neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are prevalent and for the global community of partners, this is a new dawn.
- A diverse group of communicable diseases prevailing mostly in the tropical and subtropical conditions are known as Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).
- These diseases affect more than one billion people and cost developing economies of the respective countries billions of dollars every year.
- Populations living in poverty, without adequate sanitation and in close contact with infectious vectors and domestic animals and livestock are the worst affected.
- Ascariasis, Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease, dracunculiasis, hookworm infection, human African trypanosomiasis, Leishmaniasis, leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, trachoma, and trichuriasis are the 13 NTDs.

## Horticulture Cluster Development Programme



- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, virtually launched the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP) to ensure holistic growth of horticulture.
- In a pilot phase, the programme will be implemented in 12 horticulture clusters out of the total 53 clusters selected for the programme.
- A central sector programme implemented by the National Horticulture Board (NHB) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, CDP aims at growing and developing identified horticulture clusters to make them globally competitive.
- The programme is designed to leverage geographical specialisation and promote integrated and market-led development of horticulture clusters.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) has identified 53 horticulture clusters, of which 12 have been selected for the pilot launch of the programme.
- Based on the learnings from the pilot project, the programme will be scaled up to cover all the identified clusters.

## Indian Army celebrated the 100th anniversary of the raising of Army Educational Corps (AEC) on 01 June 2021.



- The Army Education Corps of India is a program run by the Indian Army that develops soldiers and officers of all ranks in a variety of disciplines.
- The centre provides education in both combat and non-combat operations.
- The Corps' facilities are located in Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh
- History of the AEC dates back to 1921 when the mass scale of illiteracy amongst the Indian soldiers were prevalent.

## India's merchandise exports last month recorded steep rise of over 67 per cent compared to corresponding period last year



- India's merchandise exports in the last month recorded a steep rise of over 67 per cent compared to the corresponding period last year.
- The Union Commerce & Industry Ministry has informed that in the month of May this year the total merchandise export from the country stood at over 32 billion US Dollars.
- It informed that the figure is nearly 8 per cent higher even when compared to the pre COVID statistics for the Month of May in 2019.
- Collectively the merchandise export for the month of April and May this year is more than 12.5 per cent as compared to the corresponding period in the year 2019.
- The Commerce Ministry also informed that the merchandise imports in the first two months of the current financial year have been recorded to be 5.41 per cent less than that of the corresponding period in 2019.
- However due to the value of the imports pegged at around USD 38 billion, the country has registered a trade deficit of over USD 6 billion in the previous month.

## Telangana's 8th Formation Day



- Telangana is the youngest state in India and the day marks the constant Telangana Movement History for a separate state through years.
- It is observed on 2nd June.
- Telangana came into existence after being bifurcated from Andhra Pradesh

## Economic Community of West African States-ECOWAS



- The West African leaders in a recent regional summit suspended Mali from ECOWAS bodies after a second coup by the Malian military
- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is made up of fifteen member countries that are located in the Western African region
- Established on May 28 1975 via the treaty of Lagos, ECOWAS is a 15-member regional group with a mandate of promoting economic integration in all fields of activity of the constituting countries.



- The Vision of ECOWAS is the creation of a borderless region where the population has access to its abundant resources and is able to exploit same through the creation of opportunities under a sustainable environment.
- Members: ECOWAS are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d' Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo
- Considered one of the pillars of the African Economic Community, ECOWAS was set up to foster the ideal of collective self-sufficiency for its member states.
- As a trading union, it is also meant to create a single, large trading bloc through economic cooperation
- The body of ECOWAS is made up of Institutions and Specialised Agencies. The Institutions comprise:
- The Authority of Heads of States and Government, The Commission, The Community Parliament, The Community Court of Justice, Council of Ministers, Specialised Technical Committees as well as the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID).

## Which countries have approved COVID-19 vaccination for children?



- Canada, US, Italy, UAE, Philippines, Chile and Japan have approved extending the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine against coronavirus to those aged above 12.
- Germany and Poland also said they will start vaccinating children above 12 from June 7.
- Israel had expanded its vaccination drive to those aged 16 and above earlier this year.

## India Cycles4Change



- The India Cycles4Change challenge is beginning to gain momentum in Indian cities.
- The challenge was launched last year under the Smart Cities Mission by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on 25th June, 2020, as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic that was gaining ground in the country.
- Over the last year, a cycling revolution has taken over India, with cycling being seen as an important mode of safe and healthy personal transport medium that ensures social distancing, while being environmentally sustainable.
- With the launch of India Cycle4Change challenge, 107 cities registered to be a part of the cycling revolution and 41 cities undertook initiatives vis.

- surveys, discussions, pop-up cycle lanes, safer neighbourhoods, open street events, cycle rallies, or online campaigns that were aimed at creating a cycle friendly city.
- Cities as part of the campaign have initiated work covering approx. 400 kms of arterial roads and more than 3500 kms of neighbourhood streets.
- The Smart Cities Mission, in association with Institute for Transport and Development Policy (ITDP) conducted training modules and other capacity building initiatives to guide 107 cities on various cycling initiatives.
- The challenge had a Test-Learn-Scale (TLS) approach which the participating cities adopted by testing various initiatives through quick low-cost interventions in the first phase of the challenge, learning from them, and preparing for scale up in the second phase.
- The key intervention areas identified for piloting of solutions are as under.

#### Identifying barriers to cycling by listening to the people

- Cities undertook perception surveys to understand citizens needs with regard to cycling
- Several city leaders took the lead by cycling themselves and engaging with cycle users and other citizens to get a better sense of their perspective.
- To understand cycling needs, the cities conducted surveys and interviews and engaged with more than 60,000 people throughout the country.
- The engagement initiatives included people from diverse usergroups including inter alia; the team interviewed postmen in Rajkot; roundtable discussions with women were conducted in Hubli Dharwad and Kakinada; and Aizawl involved children in the cycle rides to understand their concerns.

#### Making streets and neighbourhoods safe and fun for cycling

- Cities created dedicated cycle lanes to help cyclists ride safely.
- Cities like Bhubaneswar, Surat, Kochi, Greater Warangal used traffic cones, bollards, and paints to test out interventions.
- Aurangabad reused tyres as planters to segregate their cycle lanes from motor vehicle traffic.
- Many cities like Vadodara and Gurugram made intersections safer for cyclists and pedestrians to cross by painting colourful crosswalks.
- Chandigarh also installed cycle signals to prioritise cyclists at junctions.
- To make neighbourhood streets safer for everyone, cities like Bangalore and Jabalpur designated 'slow zones', restricting motor vehicle speed through speed breakers, chicanes, and road signs.
- New Delhi created a cycle plaza for children in the Lodhi Garden Colony by rerouting vehicular traffic.

#### Creating a cycling community

- Local Civil Society Organisations were engaged with to conduct various events at a large scale and in neighbourhoods level to bring the cycling community together.



- Pimpri Chinchwad, Kohima, Great Warangal, Nagpur, Panaji and many other cities hosted rallies and cyclothons, bringing thousands of cyclists onto the streets.
- In neighbourhoods, open street events— where streets are made into temporary public spaces by blocking out car and motor vehicle traffic and allowing people to walk, jog, play and cycle—built the confidence of women, children, and new cyclists.
- Cities such as Jabalpur, New Town Kolkata hosted cycle repair clinics to make cycle service accessible and affordable, encouraging more people to come on to the streets.
- As a direct impact of these pilots, many RWAs demanded cycling-friendly neighbourhoods from their city authorities.

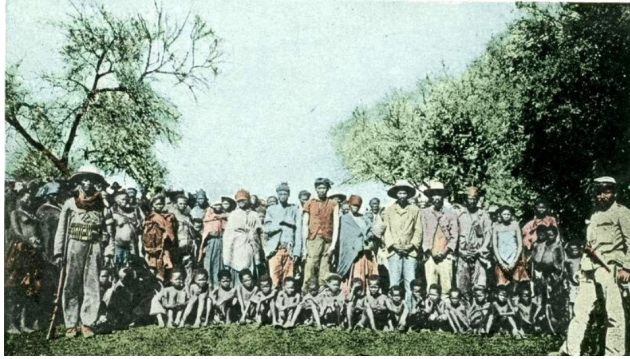
#### Empowering women to cycle

- Many cities including Nashik, New Town Kolkata, and Bengaluru hosted cycle training camps for older women, boosting their confidence to cycle.
- To improve access to cycles, Kohima, Rajkot, and Chandigarh launched cooperative cycle rental schemes and public bicycle sharing systems in neighbourhoods.
- These initiatives were particularly empowering for women, giving them an affordable means to move freely in their cities.

#### Changing everyday behaviour through campaigns

- Cities such as Rajkot and Jabalpur launched Cycle2Work campaigns, where senior officials of the government pedalled to office to inspire citizens to cycle.
- In Rajkot, the city distributed cycles to employees, awarded them for their efforts, and regularly showcased the carbon offset they had achieved through cycling.
- Other business organisations also embraced the Cycle2Work campaign, offering incentives to employees, inducing a shift to cycling.
- "2020 ignited India's cycling revolution. Cities and citizens joined hands, for the first time, to test, learn and scale up ideas to make their cities a cycling haven.
- The results have been resounding: more people are cycling now, city officials and public representatives are leading by example—cycling to work— and States are backing this with investments.
- I encourage cities to expand their work and inspire others to join the movement."  
- Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

## Herero and Nama genocide



- Germany has officially has recognized genocide against the Herero and Nama people in present-day Namibia during its colonial rule over a century ago
- It was the first genocide of the 20th century waged by the German Empire against the Herero (Ovaherero), the Nama, and the San in German South West Africa (now Namibia).
- It occurred between 1904 and 1908.
- In 1904 Herero people and Nama people rebelled against German colonial rule.
- In the same year, January 12, they massacred more than 100 German men in the area of Okahandja, though they spared women and children.
- In August, Germany defeated the Ovaherero in the Battle of Waterberg and drove them into the desert of Omaheke, where most of them died of dehydration.
- In October, the Nama people also rebelled against the Germans, only to suffer a similar fate. The Germans continued to rule the region till 1915, following which it fell under South Africa's control for 75 years. Namibia finally gained independence in 1990.
- In 1985, the United Nations' Whitaker Report classified the aftermath as an attempt to exterminate the Herero and Nama peoples of South West Africa, and therefore one of the earliest attempts at genocide in the 20th century.
- In 2004, the German government recognised and apologised for the events, but ruled out financial compensation for the victims' descendants.
- In July 2015, the German government and the speaker of the Bundestag officially called the events a "genocide"
- Germany has promised financial support of over a billion euros to the Southern African nation.
- A declaration will be signed by Maas in early June, following which it will be ratified by the parliaments of both countries.
- President Frank-Walter Steinmeier is then expected to officially apologize for Germany's crimes in front of the Namibian Parliamen

## Global Nitrogen conference



- Eighth triennial conference of the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) being held virtually from May 31-June 3, 2021
- The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the main focus of the eighth triennial conference
- The conference was postponed from May last year due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.
- Place of the conference: Berlin, Germany
- The triennial event brings together scientists from around the world dealing with reactive nitrogen compounds in agriculture, industry, traffic, soil, water and air.
- Over 800 scientists and other stakeholders from over 60 countries are attending the conference.
- Also for the first time since the inception of INI two decades ago, its conference being hosted by Germany's Federal Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt–UBA).
- It is co-organized by the International Nitrogen Initiative and hosted by Germany's Federal Environment Agency
- This event is also supported by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).
- The INI holds a conference every three years, inviting members of the international nitrogen community to meet up and discuss ideas and exchange knowledge on nitrogen issues.
- Apart from scientists and German government, the conference will be addressed by speakers from the UN Environment Programme, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and UN Economic Commission on Europe, among others.
- The International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) is an international program, set up in 2003 under sponsorship of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) and from the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP).

The key aims of the INI are to:

- optimize nitrogen's beneficial role in sustainable food production, and minimize nitrogen's negative effects on human health and the environment resulting from food and energy production.



## Isaac Herzog elected Israel's 11th President



- Israel's parliament elected Isaac Herzog as the country's 11th President, a largely ceremonial role.
- Herzog, a former head of Israel's Labor Party, will succeed Reuven Rivlin, who is set to leave his post next month after seven years in office.
- The 60-year-old Herzog ran unsuccessfully against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the 2013 parliamentary elections.

## IPO Grey Market



### IPO Grey Market Premium

- Paytm's stock has risen from ₹11,500 to ₹21,000 in four days in the grey market.
- This is in response to Paytm's announcement that it will bring an initial public offer (IPO) worth USD 3 billion later this year.
- An IPO grey market is one where a company's shares are bid and offered by traders unofficially.
- This takes place before the shares are even issued by the company in an Initial Public Offering (IPO).
- Since this is an unofficial market, there are no rules and regulations. Market regulators like Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) are not involved in these transactions.
- The regulator doesn't endorse this either.
- Grey markets are generally run by a small set of individuals. All deals are based on mutual trust.

## Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine:



- The World Health Organization has approved the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use.
- This is the second Chinese vaccine to receive the WHO's green light.
- Last month Sinopharm became the first Chinese vaccine to be approved by the WHO.
- The listing paves the way for countries to quickly approve and import a vaccine for distribution, especially those states without an international-standard regulator of their own

## UN Special Rapporteurs



- They are independent experts working on behalf of the United Nations.
- They work on a country or a thematic mandate specified by the United Nations Human Rights Council.
- They have mandates to report and advise on human rights (civil, cultural, economic, political, and social) from a thematic or country-specific perspective.
- Rapporteurs do not receive any financial compensation for their work from the United Nations.

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