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PIB SUMMARY: JUNE 2021

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

1. RESEARCH DESIGN & STANDARDS ORGANIZATION (RDSO)
   - RDSO becomes the first institution to be declared under SDO (Standard Developing Organisation).
   - It is under the “One Nation One Standard” mission of BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards).
   - RDSO is an ISO 9001 research and development organisation comes under the Ministry of Railways, GOI.

2. LARGEST GREEN RAILWAYS
   - Indian Railways is trying to become the largest Green Railways in the world.
   - It takes every step towards becoming a “net zero carbon emitter” before 2030.
   - Its main motto is to prevent injuries of animals at railway tracks and cost effective railway system.

3. ALLOTMENT OF 5 MHZ SPECTRUM IN 700 MHZ BAND TO THE INDIAN RAILWAYS
   - This allotment was approved by Union Cabinet.
   - The main aim is to provide public safety and security services at stations and in trains. Also to provide LTE (Long Term Evolution) based Mobile Train Radio Communication on its route.
   - The project will be completed in the next five years and the estimated investment in it is Rs.25000 crores.

CABINET

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION SIGNED
   - Between India and Maldives on cooperation in the field of sustainable urban development.
   - Between India and Argentina on cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources.
   - Memorandum of Cooperation between India and Japan in the field of sustainable urban development.

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

XRAYSETU
   - It is a rapid screening of COVID-19 with the help of Chest X-ray interpretation over WhatsApp for doctors who have access to X-ray machines.
The solution can work with low-resolution images sent via mobiles.
It is quick and easy to use and can enable detection in rural areas.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

EXPERT GROUP ON FIXATION OF MINIMUM WAGES AND NATIONAL FLOOR WAGES

- The Group has been constituted for a period of 3 years from the date of notification.
- This Group will consider the international best practices on wages and evolve a scientific criteria and methodology for fixation of wages.
- The Group is chaired by Prof Ajit Mishra, Director, Institute of Economic Growth.

MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

CHILDREN IN DISTRESS DURING COVID PANDEMIC

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has asked the States/UTs to ensure care and protection of children adversely impacted by COVID-19.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

SAGE INITIATIVE

- The portal is open for applications and start-ups that will be selected on the basis of innovative products and services, which they should be able to provide across sectors such as health, housing, care centres for elderly care products and services.

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GRAM PANCHAYAT CITIZEN CHARTER

- The basic objective of the Gram Panchayat Citizen Charter is to empower the citizens of panchayat union without any prejudice.
- All citizens in Panchayat should have access to public service without any discrimination.
- The Citizen Charter would ensure transparent and effective delivery of public services for sustainable development and enhanced citizen service experiences.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

1. INS SANDHAYAK
Indian Navy’s oldest Hydrographic Survey Ship INS Sandhayak Decommissioned.
INS Sandhayak, the Navy’s oldest hydrographic survey ship was decommissioned after rendering 40 years of service to the nation.

2. INDIA-THAILAND COORDINATED PATROL (INDO-THAI CORPAT)
- This CORPAT is to prevent unlawful activities like Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy.
- It further helps enhance the operational synergy by exchange of information for prevention of smuggling, illegal immigration and for the conduct of SAR operations at sea.

3. INNOVATIONS FOR DEFENCE EXCELLENCE (iDEX)
- iDEX was launched in 2018 to achieve self-reliance and foster innovation and technology development in the field of Defence and Aerospace by engaging MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, Research and Development institutes, academia, etc.
- iDEX will also provide them with grants/funding and other support to carry out R&D which has good potential for future adoption for Indian defence and aerospace needs.
- Budgetary support of Rs 498.8 crore is allocated by the Ministry of Defence.

4. INDIA’S FIRST INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFT CARRIER
- India’s first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) is being built by M/s Cochin Shipyard Ltd., at Kochi, Kerala.
- The IAC would be commissioned as INS Vikrant in the first half of 2022, which would be the most potent sea-based asset.
- The ship shall operate MiG-29K fighter aircraft, Kamov-31 Air Early Warning Helicopters, the soon to be inducted MH-60R multi-role helicopter and the indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters.

5. MOSCOW CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
- The conference is conducted by the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation at Moscow.
- This annual conference sees discussions on the urgent problems and trends in the field of international military policy.
- The conference brings together defence ministers, heads of international organizations, non-government experts and global think-tank representatives.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

1. PERFORMANCE GRADING INDEX (PGI) 2019-20
- The Government has introduced the Performance Grading Index with a set of 70 parameters to catalyse transformational change in the field of school.
- Punjab, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Kerala occupy the highest grade (Grade A++) for 2019-20.
2. E-CONTENT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

- The programme envisages the development of special e-content for children with disabilities (CwDs).
- The Dept of School Education and Literacy under the Education Ministry had formed an expert committee to come up with guidelines for developing e-content for these children.
- This Report provides key performance indicators on the current status of higher education in the country.
- It has been compiled by the Ministry of Education based on voluntary uploading of data by institutions of Higher Education listed in aishe.gov.in portal in specially designed formats of data collection.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

1. UNIQUE DISABILITY IDENTIFICATION CARD (UDID)

- Unique Disability Identification Card (UDID) now acceptable as a Photo ID for registration on Co-WIN 2.0.
- It has been decided to include the UDID in the list of prescribed Photo ID document for COVID-19 vaccination for the disabled people.

2. 75TH SESSION OF UNGA ON PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS

- In India, the HIV & AIDS Prevention and Control Act, 2017, provides a legal and enabling framework to safeguard the human rights of infected and affected populations.
- The program is aimed at behaviour change, communication, outreach, service delivery, counselling & testing and ensuring linkages to HIV care.
- India is providing free anti-retro-viral treatment to close to 1.4 million people. Indian drugs are also reaching millions of people living with HIV in Africa.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

INDIA PLASTIC CHALLENGE – HACKATHON 2021

- It is a campaign calling upon start-ups/entrepreneurs and students of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to develop innovative solutions to mitigate plastic pollution and develop alternatives to single use plastics.
- The two-month-long ‘Plastic Hackathon 2021’ campaign focuses on plastic waste management and elimination of identified single-use plastics.
- The campaign seeks to come up with suitable alternatives to single-use plastics and identify new ways of plastic waste management.

MINISTRY OF POWER

1. PAT SCHEME

- The Ministry of Power is implementing measures to save energy with an objective to reduce CO2 emission levels in the environment from industries, establishments and by using equipment/appliances.
The Perform Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme is a key programme for large industries and establishments. This scheme aims to enhance the cost-effectiveness of energy savings by upgrading technologies or by taking in-house actions to minimize energy consumption.

2. INTEGRATED POWER DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (IPDS)

- Under the IPDS scheme, 50 KWP Solar roof top in Solan was inaugurated as part of ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’
- Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) was launched in 2014.

NITI AAYOG

1. SURAKSHIT HUM SURAKSHIT TUM ABHIYAAN

- The Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan was launched to assist district administrations in providing home-care support to Covid-19 patients who are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms.
- It will be led by district magistrates in partnership with over 1000 local NGOs.

2. NATIONAL CONVENTION ON PREVENTION OF MATERNAL, ADOLESCENT AND CHILDHOOD OBESITY

- There is a recognition of the ‘silent epidemic’ of obesity targeting women and children.
- Various institution presented their evidence regarding increasing prevalence of obesity and presented best practices for obesity reduction.
- It is helpful in tackling the twin nutrition challenge of obesity and under nutrition.

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

- Conditional exemption to Survey of India from Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021
- Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have granted conditional exemption to the Survey of India (Sol) from Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021.

REASONS FOR THE EXEMPTION:

- The drone deployment permission has been granted for large scale mapping of inhabited areas of villages under the central government SVAMITVA scheme.
- This permission grant will allow Large Scale Mapping (LSM) by Survey of India using drones.
- The aerial surveillance would generate high resolution and accurate maps to confer ownership property rights.
- Based on these maps or data, property cards would be issued to the rural household owners.

MINISTRY OF COAL
COMMERCIAL COAL MINING

- The commercial coal mining auction process was initiated in June 2020.
- The 1st Stakeholders’ Consultation on 2nd Tranche of Auction of Coal Mines for Commercial Mining was held jointly by the Ministry of Coal with FICCI as the industry partner.
- During the second tranche of the auction for commercial coal mining, 67 mines are being offered with a total resource of almost 36 billion and explored mines PRCs of about 150 million tonnes (MT).

MINISTRY OF NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (MNRE)

SOLAR PLI SCHEME

- IREDA invited bids for Rs. 4500 crore Solar PLI scheme.

DETAILS:

- The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) has appointed the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) as the implementing agency for the scheme.
- The applicants are required to set up either brownfield or greenfield manufacturing facility for the entire capacity allotted under the scheme.
- Applicants are not allowed to set up a mix of brownfield and greenfield facility under the scheme.
- Solar capacity addition presently depends largely upon imported solar PV cells and modules as the domestic industry has limited operational capacities of solar PV cells and modules.

PM OFFICE

VIVATECH

- Context: PM delivered the keynote address at the 5th edition of VivaTech.

DETAILS:

- VivaTech is one of the largest digital and startup events in Europe, held in Paris every year since 2016.
- It is jointly organised by Publicis Groupe – a prominent advertising and marketing conglomerate and Les Echos – a leading French media group.
- The event brings together stakeholders in technology innovation and the startup ecosystem and includes exhibitions, awards, panel discussions and startup contests.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

INDO-ISRAEL AGRICULTURAL PROJECT (IIAP)

- 3 Centres of Excellence (COE) established in Karnataka under Indo-Israel Agriculture project.
THE THREE COES ARE:

- COE Kolar for Mango
- COE Bagalkote for Pomegranate
- COE Dharwad for Vegetables

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE COMPLEX (NMHC)

DETAILS:

- The NMHC will showcase the rich and diverse maritime glory of India.
- It will be a world-class facility in the vicinity of the Archaeological Survey of India site of Lothal.
- NMHC would be developed as an international tourist destination, where the maritime heritage of India from ancient to modern times would be showcased and an edutainment approach using the latest technology would be adopted to spread awareness about India’s maritime heritage.

CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD ON CULTURE (CABC)

- Central Advisory Board on Culture (CABC) was constituted to advise the Ministry of Culture to help in providing inputs for the formulation of new, need-based programmes in the field of culture.
- Also to guide the work of the National Missions set up by the Ministry of Culture.

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

1. ADI PRASHIKSHAN PORTAL

- The portal would act as a Central Repository of all training programs conducted by Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), different divisions of the Tribal Affairs Ministry, the National Society for Education of Tribal Students (NESTS), Centre of Excellences funded by the Ministry and the National Tribal Research Institute.
- It was developed by the Tribal Affairs Ministry, GOI.

2. SANKALP SE SIDDHI – MISSION VAN DHAN

- Minister for Tribal Affairs launched the tribal livelihoods initiative ‘Sankalp Se Siddhi – Mission Van Dhan’.

ABOUT SANKALP SE SIDDHI – MISSION VAN DHAN:

- The mission was launched to promote local products manufactured by tribal artisans to more people to improve their economic conditions.
Through this, tribal people will get new employment opportunities and they themselves will be able to become entrepreneurs.

**3. NISHTHA CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME**

- NISHTHA Capacity Building Programme for teachers and principals of the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS).
- It is a Holistic Advancement Program.
- The capacity building program is aimed to build competencies among teachers and school principals and Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training.
- The teachers were from the three states of Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

**MINISTRY OF AYUSH**

- Global Yoga Conference 2021

**CONTEXT:**

- Global Yoga Conference 2021 was organised by the ‘Mokshayatan Yog Sansthan’ along with the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India & the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

**DETAILS:**

- The event was organised to mark the occasion of the 7th International Day of Yoga which falls on 21st June 2021.
- The theme for the International Yoga Day 2021 is “Yoga at home and Yoga with Family”.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**PROJECT O2 FOR INDIA**

- ‘Project O2 for India’ aim is to meet this rise in demand for medical oxygen in the wake of the second wave of the covid pandemic.
- Under Project O2 for India, a National Consortium of Oxygen is enabling the national level supply of critical raw materials such as zeolites, setting up of small oxygen plants, manufacturing compressors, final products, i.e., oxygen plants, concentrators, and ventilators.

**MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI**

**GANGA QUEST 2021**

- Ganga Quest is to to strengthen the Namami Gange program of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.
- It is a national online quiz on Ganga rivers and to sensitize children and youth towards the River Ganga
Ganga Quest is an international bilingual (Hindi and English) online quiz on Ganga being organized by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and TREE Craze Foundation (TCF), a not for profit organization committed to Ganga, Rivers, and Environment.

Anyone above 10 years of age can participate in the quiz.

**MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS**

- “Jaan Hai To Jahaan Hai” Campaign
- It is a nationwide awareness campaign to create awareness on Corona vaccination in rural and remote areas of the country.
- It is to “Crush and Curb” the rumours and apprehensions regarding the on-going vaccination drive.
- Street plays will also be organised across the country.

**MINISTER OF LAW**

**ITAT E-DWAR**

- It is the e-filing portal of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT). The portal would enable the parties to file their Appeals, Miscellaneous Applications, documents, paper books, etc., electronically.
- The portal will enhance the accessibility, accountability and transparency in the day to day working of the ITAT.