

testbook MONTHLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BANKING AND FINANCE CAPSULE

OCTOBER 2020

DOWNLOAD
THE APP



testbook.com

“आपकी सफलता हमारा संकल्प”

SSC | Banking | Railways | Police

MONTHLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BANKING & FINANCE CAPSULE - OCTOBER 2020

Why were six PSBs excluded from Schedule II of the RBI act recently?

- The Reserve Bank of India excluded six public sector banks from the Second Schedule of RBI Act. This was done following their merger with other banks. These six banks are Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC), Syndicate Bank, United Bank of India, Corporation Bank, Andhra Bank, and Allahabad Bank.
- There were 27 Public Sector Banks in 2017. Their count has now come down to 12 with seven large PSBs and five smaller PSBs.
- The OBC and United Bank of India were merged into Punjab National Bank.
- The Syndicate Bank was merged with Canara Bank and Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank were merged into Union Bank of India and Allahabad Bank was merged into Indian Bank.

India Post Payment Bank achieves 3.6 crore customers

- The India Post Payment Bank, even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, has attained 3.6 crores of customers.
- Till September 15, 2020, the bank had completed Rs. 38,500 crores of financial transactions.
- In August 2019, it had crossed the milestone of one crore customers. This has been achieved by the bank in just two years of launch.
- The main reason behind the success of the bank is Aadhaar Enabled Payment System Service (AEPS). The AEPS helped to extend the banking and financial services to millions of unbanked and poor.

Draft Electricity (Change in Law, Must-run status and Other matters) Rules 2020

- The Ministry of Power had released Draft Electricity (Change in Law, Must-run Status, and Other Matters) rules, 2020.
- The ministry of power has issued draft rules to bring in quick compensation to power plants.
- This is because both the Gencos and Discoms are in financial distress. It aims at avoiding long regulator procedures for incontestable cases.
- It also aims to reduce litigation and help regulator commissions to focus on genuine disputes.

KVIC organizes 150 programs to empower artisans

- On the eve of Gandhi Jayanti, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is organizing a series of 150 mega-events.
- The events are to be held in northeastern states and other states such as Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat, and West Bengal. These states were selected as they have led the country with the highest number of programs for artisan empowerment.
- The Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana for the first time reached West Garo Hills of Meghalaya.
- The program will train around 40 potter families. The West Garo Hill region encounters insurgency as the Garo people in the region demand a separate state.

42nd GST Council Meet held

- Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitaraman chaired the 42nd GST Council Meet.
- The GST Council could not finalize borrowing plans of states to meet the compensation shortfall after eight hours of the meet.

- 18% of GST over launch satellite launches exempted. The Indian firms earlier had to pay 18% GST to launch their satellites on ISRO rockets. This has now been exempted
- The Small Taxpayers need not file monthly returns from January 1, 2021. The small taxpayers are those whose annual turnover is less than Rs 5 crores. The taxpayers with a turnover of more than Rs 5 crores will now have to provide HSN Code from April 2021.

G-20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative: Key Facts

- The officials of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) called for the extension of the G20 Debt Service Suspension initiative till the end of 2021.
- The DSSI means that for a limited time, the debt service payment from the poorest countries is suspended upon request from the countries.
- This will help these countries to address immediate liquidity needs. The poorest countries are low-income and low middle-income countries.
- As of August 2020, 60% of eligible countries have made requests. This amounts to 5.3 billion USD. India is a low middle-income country. Therefore, India is eligible to claim the suspension.

Gol appoints Monetary Policy Committee Members

- The Government of India appointed economists Jayant R Varma, Shashank Bhide, and Ashima Goyal as members of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). Their appointments were cleared by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet chaired by PM Modi.
- The current MPC was set up by the GoI in 2016 following the finalization of the Monetary Policy Framework Agreement. The framework introduced inflation targeting.
- The MPC frames monetary policies for the country using monetary tools such as bank rate, the repo rate, the reverse repo rate, cash reserve ratio.
- These tools are called monetary policy instruments. There are two types of Monetary Policy instruments.

Gol approves 10 PLI projects of Rs 10.5 trillion in the electronics manufacturing sector

- The Government of India approved 16 proposals under two flagship schemes (Make in India and Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan) in the electronics manufacturing sector.
- The projects are expected to bring Rs 11,000 crores of investments in the local electronics manufacturing sector. This in turn will increase the production in the sector to Rs 10.5 trillion in the next five years.
- According to the Central Government, the plan is to boost the exports of Electronics to Rs 6.5 trillion by 2025 under Production Linked Incentive Scheme. Around five proposals from private manufacturers such as Lava, Micromax, UTL Neolyncs, Padget Electronics, and Optiemus Electronics were cleared.
- These five projects will manufacture Rs 1.25 trillion handsets in the next five years. Apart from these five firms, proposals of five other firms were also approved. These projects are to generate 200,000 direct and 600,000 indirect employment.

RBI Monetary Policy Committee meet

- The newly formed Monetary Policy Committee held its meeting between October 7, 2020, and October 9, 2020.
- The Government of India recently appointed its members.
- They were economists Jayant R Varma, Shashank Bhide, and Ashima Goyal.
- Also, the Government of India recently appointed Rajeshwar Rao as the Deputy Governor of RBI.

Natural Gas Marketing Reforms approved by the Union Cabinet

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the natural gas marketing reforms.
- The reforms aim to fix the gas prices in the market through transparent and competitive processes.
- E-Bidding Platform: The main objective of the reforms is to provide standard procedures for the sale of Natural Gas in the country.
- It also aims to provide a transparent and competitive method of discovering market prices through e-bidding.

Finance Minister announces Festival Advance scheme, LTC Cash Voucher Scheme

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Monday announced two sets of measures to generate consumer demand and boost capital spending in the economy
- The ministry decided to allow government and private sector employees to use their Leave Travel Concession tax-free benefit for various types of purchases while an interest-free festival advance of Rs 10,000 is being given to government employees.
- The benefit of LTC is that if your fare component of LTC is Rs 40,000, you need to spend Rs 1.2 lakh on goods that fall in 12% or more GST slab in order to save tax on Rs 40,000.
- Leave encashment component of LTC, the employee will have to spend an equivalent amount towards the purchase of goods that attract GST of 12 per cent or more.

Bangalore Rose Onions: Key Facts, GI Tag, Exports, Production, characteristics

- The Government of India recently allowed the export of Bangalore Rose onions. Earlier the union government had banned the export of all varieties of onions.
- Bangalore rose onions were given with Geographical Indication tag in 2015.
- These onions have bulbs with a flat base. They are spherical. They have a unique deep Scarlet red color.
- Unlike normal onions, they are rich in anthocyanin, phenols, and high pungency. Also, they are rich in Phosphorus, protein, iron, and carotene.

GSFC launches indigenous varieties of Calcium Nitrate and Boronated Calcium Nitrates

- The Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals India Limited (GSFC) launched the indigenous variety of boronated calcium nitrate and Calcium nitrate.
- Chemicals are being manufactured in the country for the first time. All these years these Chemicals were imported from other countries
- The calcium nitrate is used as water-soluble fertilizer. It is also used to increase the strength of cement concrete and also in wastewater treatment.
- It is a multi-purpose fertilizer that is used to provide the macronutrient, nitrogen, to the plants and also to prevent diseases. Also, calcium is essential for the plants to produce healthy seeds. Seeds rich in calcium have a better shelf life.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman chairs 43rd GST Council Meet

- The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman chaired 43rd GST Council Meet. The council for the third time discussed the issue of revenue shortfall of states.
- Before the meet, the minister announced a slew of economic measures to boost consumer demand in the country.
- The majority of the states have opted for Option 1. However, the states complain that the collection of cess is inadequate to pay the compensation.
- The minister said that the Centre cannot borrow more as Government Security Bond Yield may go high.

Union Cabinet approves Rs 5,718 crore World Bank's Project STARS

- Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the project STARS aided by the World bank.
- The cabinet has approved Rs 5,718 crores of aid from World Bank to implement project STARS. STARS is Strengthening Teaching Learning and Resources for States.
- The project is to be implemented by the department of school education and literacy operating under the Ministry of Education.
- The project will also set up and support the PRAKH, the national assessment centre.

Operation Green: 50% Freight Subsidy for agricultural perishables

- The Ministry of Food Processing and the ministry of Railways have jointly provided a subsidized rate of 50% for freight transportation of perishable agriculture produce such as vegetables and fruits.
- The step is being implemented to boost Operation Green. Operation Green is implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing.
- The ministries will provide 50% of subsidies to farmers transporting surplus agricultural produce such as vegetables and fruits by train.
- Also, the ministry will provide a 50% subsidy to cold chain storage of Agricultural commodities. To receive the subsidies, the farmers have to submit self-certified documents on the "Sampada" portal. The portal is maintained by the Ministry of food processing.

Tamil Nadu Government to implement Smart Black Board Scheme

- The Tamil Nadu State government is to implement the smart blackboard scheme in more than 80,000 Government schools.
- This is to ensure a better teaching environment.
- The smart blackboard scheme aims to use audiovisual teaching material that can be integrated along with digital classrooms.
- The Smart Class Room scheme of the Central Education Ministry is being implemented in 7500 schools of the state
- It will create materials that can be fed into computer screens using pen drives.

GST Compensation: Rs 6,000 crores transferred to 16 states

- The Government of India transferred Rs 6000 crores to 16 states and two union territories as the first tranche.
- The interest rate has been fixed at 5.19 %.
- Over 21 states had opted for the borrowing scheme. And five other states did not have revenue shortfall to claim compensation.
- Out of these 21 States, 16 states and 2 union territories have received the compensation funds. They are Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Bihar, Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Jammu and Kashmir.

India-Israel Water Attache

- Israel is to establish a "Water Attache" in India. It is to operate from January 2021 under the Israel Embassy in India.
- The Water Attache division will share Israel's best practices, technologies, and water management in agriculture sectors.

- Also, Israel is to soon appoint an honorary consul to the North-East. Its objective is to increase its presence and collaboration in the north-east region.
- Strategic cooperation of the G2G level in the field of agriculture is under implementation between the countries.

Central Vigilance Commission adopted Integrity Pact: Key Facts

- The Central Vigilance Commission has modified the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on the adoption of "Integrity Pact" in government firms for purchase-related activities.
- For appointed as Integrity External Monitors (IEMs), the Ministry, department or organization worried has to forward a panel of suitable persons to the CVC, of those persons who are in the panel maintained by the Commission.
- It is a surveillance tool that anticipates an agreement between the prospective vendors/bidders and the buyer, performing both the parties not to exercise any corrupt influence on any aspect of the contract.
- IEM analysis freely and objectively, whether and to what extent parties have observed with their obligations under the pact.

DST-IEST Solar PV Hub inaugurated at Shibpur, WB

- The Union Education Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank inaugurated the DST-IEST Solar PV Hub. The hub was inaugurated at Shibpur in Howrah District of West Bengal.
- The funds to develop the hub was allocated by the Department of Science and Technology. It is backed by the centre of excellence for green energy and sensor system located at the IEST. The concept of establishing the Solar PV hub mooted in 2018. It aims to have a world-class research facility.
- It will act as a central node for the dissemination of knowledge in the field of solar energy, research, and development, fabrication, solar photovoltaics, solar PV module, testing of solar cells, and solar PV systems.
- The hub provides a great boost for the eastern and North Eastern regions of India.

Govt to launch two centres of excellence for Tribal Welfare

- The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs is to launch two centres of Excellence for tribal welfare.
- The centres are to be launched in collaboration between the Art of Living and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The centres aim to focus on strengthening the PRIS and to train the tribal farmers. Each centre is to take up one goal and will exclusively work on it.
- It will create awareness about tribal acts and rules. Also, the excellence centre through the initiative will make welfare schemes available to the tribal population.

RBI to set new QR code rules to change payment picture of India

- The Reserve Bank of India recently ordered payment system operators (PSO) from launching a new proprietor QR code for transactions.
- The apex Bank asked the PSOs to switch to at least 1 interoperable QR code.
- This is to use the same QR code across multiple payment applications.
- This is being done by the Reserve Bank of India to improve the digital payment infrastructure in the country.

NPCI launches "Rupay Festive Carnival"

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched 'RuPay Festive Carnival'.
- The 'RuPay Festive Carnival' will give compelling advantages and interesting discounts to RuPay users. It aimed at contactless, motivating safe and cashless payments.
- RuPay cardholders can revel in celebrations by helping attractive offers.

- The card revel offers from not only groups such as fitness, education, health, e-commerce – which are most appropriate and significant amid at present scenarios – but also from shopping, entertainment, dining and food delivery, wellness, pharmacy, and others.

What is India-Australia Circular Economy Hackathon?

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is an initiative set up by NITI Aayog.
- AIM has collaborated with Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).
- It will conduct a two-day hackathon on the circular economy, 'India-Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)', in December 2020.
- A Circular Economy is an economy where products are designed for durability, reuse, and recyclability and thus almost everything gets reused, remanufactured, and recycled into a raw material or used as a source of energy.
- India is so far on its path to the circular economy. The initiatives of the National Productivity Council (NPC) and the government show that.

Shipping Ministry inaugurated 'Direct Port Entry Facility' at V.O. Chidambaranar port

- A direct port entry facility was launched at the V O Chidambarnar port in Tuticorin by Union minister of state for shipping and minister of state for Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya.
- The modern Direct Port Entry would allow direct movement of containers from mills to the container terminal round the clock, without in-between handling at CFSs.
- The facility is launch in an area of 18,357 sq. meters inside the truck parking terminal that was created under 'Sagarmala' for issuing customs permission of export cargo such as mills stuffed and re-sealed containers.
- It can hold 18,000 twenty-foot approximately units (TEUs) per month.

Kerala: First State to fix MSP for vegetables

- Kerala became the first Indian state to fix the Minimum Support Price for sixteen agriculture items.
- It consists of vegetables, fruits, and tubers.
- The scheme is to support farmers and increase the agriculture sector.
- Sixteen different varieties of vegetables will be covered in the first phase. There is also a condition to revise the MSP price regularly.
- The Base Price will be 20% more than the production cost of vegetables. It will function in the same way as the MSP system.
- Local self-government bodies will correlate the procurement and circulation of vegetables.

India-UAE Defence Cooperation enhanced through Joint Production

- India and the United Arab Emirates recently held a webinar to boost defence production and exports between the countries.
- The Webinar was organized by the Department of Defence Production operating under the Ministry of Defence through the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM). The webinar was organized to help India achieve its target of reaching 5 billion USD of defence exports in five years.
- The bilateral trade between India and UAE is 53 billion USD. UAE is the third-largest trading partner of India. India is the second-largest export destination for UAE.
- In 2018, India allowed Abu Dhabi National Oil Corporation to store and export oil from the strategic petroleum reserve located at Mangalore Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

India-Japan Cooperation in ICT approved by Union Cabinet

- The Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed between India and Japan on Cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technologies.
- The Memorandum will strengthen cooperation between the countries in the field of communications.
- The agreement will also help in cooperation in the field of telecom security, 5G, submarine cable, utilization of latest wireless technologies, Disaster relief, blockchain, spectrum management, standard certification of communication equipment, and cooperation on multilateral platforms.
- The MoC will help India increase its opportunities for getting into the Global Standardization Process. Also, it will help in promoting Indian human capacity in the field of ICT thereby realizing the objectives of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Union Cabinet approves norms for Mandatory Packaging in Jute Materials

- The Union Cabinet approved by PM Modi approved that 20% of sugar and 100% of food grains should be mandatorily packed in jute bags.
- This decision will help in diversifying jute industries.
- The mandatory jute packing norms have been introduced under the Jute Packaging Material Act, 1987.
- However, when in shortage of jute bags, the Ministry of Textiles can ease the provisions to 30% of food grains (to be packed).

Union Cabinet approves Mechanism for Procurement of Ethanol

- The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the Mechanism for the public sector oil companies to procure ethanol.
- Under the new mechanism, the prices of ethanol obtained from sugarcane-based raw material have been increased for the forthcoming sugar cane season.
- This is between December 2020 and November 2021. Also, the prices of ethanol obtained from C heavy molasses, B heavy molasses have been increased.
- New Price fixed for Ethanol produced from sugar- Rs. 62.65/ltr. Ethanol manufactured from 'B' heavy molasses - Rs. 57.61/ltr. Ethanol manufactured from 'C' heavy molasses - Rs. 45.69/ltr
- Additionally, the oil companies will now have to pay transportation charges and GST while procuring ethanol.

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project approved by Union Cabinet

- The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the Phase II and Phase III Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP).
- These two phases are to be implemented with financial assistance from the World Bank and AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank).
- The overall cost of the project is Rs 10,211 crores. It is to be implemented in 10 years duration. The external funding of the project is Rs 7,000 crores.
- The rest of Rs 3,211 crores is to come from the Implementing agencies. The Government of India is to contribute Rs 1.024 crores.

NITI Aayog releases Draft Model Act on Land Titles

- NITI Aayog released Draft Model Act and rules for states on land titling.
- This has been introduced to reduce litigations. In turn, the process of land acquisition will get eased.

- The Model Act and Rules will empower the State Governments to establish, administer, and manage a system of title registration of immovable properties.
- Also, it will reduce the large number of land-related litigations. It will also help improve land acquisitions.

testbook.com



testbook MONTHLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BANKING AND FINANCE CAPSULE

SEPTEMBER 2020

DOWNLOAD
THE APP



GET IT ON
Google Play



testbook.com

“आपकी सफलता हमारा संकल्प”

SSC | Banking | Railways | Police

Monthly General Knowledge Banking & Finance Capsule (September 2020)

Vaccine portal launched in India

- The Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched a vaccine portal for COVID-19. The portal aims to create awareness among masses.
- The portal will provide vaccine related information. This will include efforts made in India towards vaccine development against COVID-19.
- Alongside, the Minister also launched a history timeline of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) displaying key milestones and programme interventions. The timeline depicted 108 year journey of the council. Also, a history book was launched on the 100-year journey of ICMR

Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM)

- Union Minister R K Singh launched the Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) for electricity.
- The move, that will lead to an increase in the participants in the renewable energy sector.
- The initiative will also help in achieving the 175 GW renewable energy (RE) target of the country.
- The country's target of 175 GW RE capacity by 2022 is driving accelerated renewable penetration.

How helpful is the Sovereign Gold Bond scheme in decreasing India's Gold import?

- India is a country where since time immemorial people especially women have been highly fascinated towards gold, be it wearing in the form of jewellery or storing it in the house as an asset which can be used in the form of rescue during the time of crisis.
- This huge craze for gold has made us Indian go insane as much as that we are one among the world's largest importers of gold.
- Countries gold import in the fiscal year 2020-21 was 35.8 billion Dollar. Most people buy gold as an investment and storing purpose to hide black money.
- Seeing this Indian government has come up with a new financial scheme known as Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB).

Infra Status to Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs)

- The department of economic affairs under the ministry of finance issued a notification to include "Affordable Rental Housing Complex" in the Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure Sub-sectors by insertion of a new item in the category of "Social and Commercial Infrastructure"
- "Affordable Rental Housing Complex" is defined as a project to be used for rental purpose only for urban migrant or poor for a minimum period of 25 years with basic civic infrastructure facilities such as water, sanitation, sewage or septage, road, electricity along with necessary social or commercial infrastructure and the initial rent fixed by Local Authority or Entities based on local survey of area where the project is situated.
- It is a sub-scheme of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban that is implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The creation of ARHCs is as a part of the government's economic package to address the Covid-19 crisis. The scheme is in line with the vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

Government decides to cap export incentives under MEIS scheme

- The government has decided to cap export incentives under Merchant Export from India Scheme (MEIS) at ₹2 crore per exporter on outbound shipments made during September-December 2020.
- It is going to seriously affect traders.
- Exports made during September-December will be based on orders that had been negotiated earlier, factoring in the existing MEIS benefit.
- These benefits are part of the export competitiveness.

Coal India Ltd. plans to invest over Rs 1.22 lakh crore

- Coal India Ltd (CIL) recently decided to invest over 1.22 lakh crore rupees on development of nearly 500 projects.
- It includes coal evacuation, infrastructure, project development, exploration and clean coal technologies in the country.
- The investment aims at making India self-reliant in terms of coal and achieve the production target of 1 billion tonnes by 2023-2024.
- Out of the proposed spend of over ₹1.22 lakh crore, ₹32,696 crore will be invested on coal evacuation, ₹25,117 crore on mine infrastructure, ₹29,461 crore on project development, ₹32,199 crore on diversification and clean coal technologies, ₹1,495 crore on social infrastructure and ₹1,893 crore on exploration works by 2023-24.

MoU between India and Japan on cooperation in Textiles

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Textiles Committee, India and M/s Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre, Japan for improving quality and testing of Indian textiles and Clothing for the Japanese market.
- The MoU would enable Japan to assign Textile Committee as their cooperative Testing and Inspection service providers in India for Textiles & Apparel products including Technical Textiles and any other products for both domestic and overseas buyers.
- India's share in the Japanese market for the export of garment is still negligible. On the other hand, Japan is the third largest apparel importer in the world.
- So, with this MoU, India has been provided with a good opportunity to boost its textile sector. The MoU would enable the Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre, Japan, to assign the Textile Committee as their cooperative testing and inspection service providers in India for textiles and apparel products.

Govt to increase public health care expenditure from 1.15% to 2.5% by 2025

- The Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan announced that the Government of India is to increase the health care expenditure in the country by 2.5% of GDP by 2025.
- Currently, the government is spending 1.15% of GDP to fulfil health care needs.
- The increase is being done based on the recommendation of the fifteenth finance commission high-level group. The information of increase was provided by the minister during his "Sunday Samvaad".
- It is an interactive programme of Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan with the social media users. During the programme, the minister answers to questions raised by several social media users.

India's Sandalwood trees facing serious threats from Sandalwood Spike Disease

- The Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD) has infected several aromatic sandalwood trees in Kerala and Karnataka. This was founded based on the study by the Institute of Wood Science and Technology.

- According to the study, the sandalwood trees in Marayoor forests of Kerala and several other forest regions in Karnataka are heavily infected with SSD.
- The disease is caused by bacterial parasites that are transmitted by insect vectors. Currently there is no option but to cut down and remove the infected tree to prevent the spread of the disease.
- Every year, around 1% to 5% of sandalwood trees are lost in India due to the disease. Currently, there is fear that delay in controlling the disease may spread to cultivated sandalwood trees as well.

NPPA caps prices of oxygen cylinders

- The Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan announced that the Government of India is to increase the health care expenditure in the country by 2.5% of GDP by 2025.
- Currently, the government is spending 1.15% of GDP to fulfil health care needs.
- The increase is being done based on the recommendation of the fifteenth finance commission high-level group. The information of increase was provided by the minister during his "Sunday Samvaad".
- The National Health Policy, 2017 targeted the increase in public health expenditure to 2.5% of GDP.

RBI to introduce Positive Pay System to check Cheques

- The Reserve Bank of India is to introduce a "Positive Pay System" from January 2021.
- The system makes it mandatory to re-confirm key details of cheques that need payments beyond Rs 50,000.
- Under the new system, the issuer of the cheque will have to submit details of the cheque such as name of the beneficiary, date, amount of the drawee bank, payee electronically through SMS.
- Apart from SMS, the issuer can submit the details through internet banking, mobile app or ATM as well.

RBI releases Cyber Security Vision Framework for Urban Cooperative Banks

- The Reserve Bank of India is to introduce a "Positive Pay System" from January 2021.
- The system makes it mandatory to re-confirm key details of cheques that need payments beyond Rs 50,000.
- Under the new system, the issuer of the cheque will have to submit details of the cheque such as name of the beneficiary, date, amount of the drawee bank, payee electronically through SMS.
- Apart from SMS, the issuer can submit the details through internet banking, mobile app or ATM as well.

RBI releases Cyber Security Vision Framework for Urban Cooperative Banks

- The Reserve Bank of India released Cyber Security Vision Framework for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs).
- The apex bank has taken four different guiding principles in order to formulate the framework.
- This is because the heterogeneity of UCBs in India in terms of regions, size, digital depth and financial health is huge.
- A "one size fits all" approach would not be appropriate while prescribing cyber security in the country.
- The framework has been released under the title 'Technology Vision for Cyber Security' for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) – 2020-2023

GoI forms five task forces to revive MSME sector

- The Government of India formed five task forces in five different key areas to boost the MSME sector in the country.
- The task forces will make the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) future ready.
- It will create concrete strategies in making the country a lead exporter.
- The Task Forces are to work for a month and have been created under different ministries.

India-Denmark sign Memorandum of Understanding on Intellectual Property Cooperation

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Intellectual Property Cooperation.
- To exchange experiences, best practices and knowledge of IP awareness among businesses, public, research and educational institution of both countries
- The countries will collaborate in training programmes, technical exchanges, exchange of experts and outreach activities.
- The countries will cooperate in the implementation of projects, information systems in IP and procedures to manage IP.

Plastic Parks Scheme: Key Facts

- The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has recently approved to set up ten plastic parks in the country.
- The parks are being set up under the Plastic Park scheme that was launched in 2019. The plastic parks are to be set up in Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand.
- A plastic park is a zone of industries that is dedicated to plastic and related sectors. Out of the 10 plastic parks 6 are being implemented currently in the above-mentioned States.
- The draft plan for the rest of the four is under processing. The Government of India has sealed the project cost of setting up of the park at Rs 40 crore per project

RBI unveils National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE) to be implemented for the period of next five years i.e. 2020 to 2025.
- This is the second national strategy; the first NSFE was launched in 2013. NSFE 2020-25 has been launched with an aim of achieving a financially aware and empowered India.
- The bank came up with a 5-Core Actions approach with this second national strategy.

Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020

- The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 which is an amendment to the Banking Regulations act 1949, was passed in Parliament.
- The Bill replaces the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 that was promulgated on June 26, 2020.
- The Bill provides power to RBI so as to initiate a scheme for reconstruction or amalgamation without imposing any moratorium.
- The Bill provides that no person will have the power to demand payment for surrendering shares that have been issued to him by a co-operative bank.

Parliament passes Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation and Amendment of Certain provisions) bill

- Parliament passed the Taxation and other laws (Relaxation and Amendment of certain provisions) bill, 2020.
- It replaces an ordinance and will make few changes to direct and indirect tax laws. It was cleared in Rajya Sabha through voice vote.
- The bill was passed in Lok Sabha earlier.
- The bill provides relief by extending deadlines for filing returns and to link PAN and Aadhaar

Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor to be commissioned in 2022

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Atomic Energy and Space Shri Jitendra Singh in a written reply said that the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor is to be commissioned by October 2022.
- The reactor was constructed by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI).

- When commissioned, the reactor will add 500 MW of power to the national grid. The commissioning of the reactor is getting delayed due to technical issues.
- The reactor is being constructed at the Kalpakkam Atomic Power Station located near Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Govt increases Minimum Support Price of Rabi Crops

- The Government of India increased the Minimum Support Price of rabi crops.
- The MSP of wheat has been increased by Rs 50 per quintal.
- The other crops are Chana, Mustard, Safflower and Masoor.
- The key decision to increase MSP was taken at the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

Public Procurement Order, 2017 amended

- The Government of India has recently amended the public procurement order 2017.
- The amendment has been made to curtail Chinese investment.
- According to the amendment the entities of countries that do not allow Indian companies to participate in their government procurement procedures shall not be allowed to participate in Indian government procurement procedures.
- The amendment has been made to promote Make in India and to curtail investments from neighbouring countries especially China.

India's first private Jet Terminal at New Delhi: Key Facts

- India opened its first exclusive private jet terminal at New Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport.
- The Terminal was inaugurated by the Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.
- The airport will allow movement of 150 jets on a daily basis.
- The new terminal has the capacity to handle over 50 passengers in an hour.

RBI Issues Draft on Rupee Interest Rate (IR) Derivatives Directions 2020

- The Reserve Bank has proposed to allow foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to undertake the rupee interest rate derivatives which is subject to a ceiling of ₹5,000 crore.
- These directions aim to encourage high non-resident participation, to enhance the role of domestic market makers in the other market, to improve transparency and to achieve better regulatory oversight.
- IRDs are the Financial Instruments whose value is linked to the movements of the interest rates through varying interest rates, prices of interest rate instruments, or interest rate indices.
- IRDs are the Financial Instruments whose value is linked to the movements of the interest rates through varying interest rates, prices of interest rate instruments, or interest rate indices. IRDs may include futures, options, or swaps contracts.

ONGC exits from Sudan

- India's Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) recently exited from Sudan oil fields.
- This step was taken by ONGC after the African nation refused to pay for oil it lifted from the fields.
- Sudan had not paid the OVL since 2011, for oil it bought from the block. Sudan's dues towards OVL stands at USD 430.69 million.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation is an Indian public sector multinational company that works in crude oil and gas sectors.

Heavy Rains Forecast Raised Concerns for Kharif Crops

- Heavy rains forecast across the central and western regions have raised the fears of crop losses in the last week of September.

- This year, the retreating monsoon is expected to pick up in most parts of India with heavy rainfall in the farming belts.
- The Indian economy heavily depends on agriculture. About 70% of the Indian population depends on farming either directly or indirectly. 58% of the total employment in the country is in the agriculture sector.
- Contribution of the Agriculture sector stands at 18% of the GDP.

37 Mega Food Parks in 23 States/UTs Approved

- Mega Food Park Scheme (MFPS) is being implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- The scheme has been creating modern infrastructure for the food processing industries since 2008.
- A Total of 42 food parks have been planned, and 37 Mega Food Parks have recently been approved out of which 19 are already operational.
- It is a scheme of the Ministry of Food Processing that establishes a “direct linkage from farm to processing and then to consumer markets”.

India Bans Export of all Varieties of Onion

- The Government of India has released a notification banning the export of all varieties of onions.
- The ban has been imposed three months after the central government made changes in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
- The Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) value released by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) for onions also stands high.
- Stocks have also been badly affected in MP, Gujarat and parts of Maharashtra because of flood like situations and lock-down restrictions.

ADB: Asian Economy to shrink for First Time since 1960s

- The Asian Development Bank has predicted that the Asian economy will shrink for the first time since the early 1960s amid the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The report states that downfall in the level of growth will continue until the next year.
- The Development bank had earlier in June 2020 predicted that the Gross Domestic Product.
- The Bank had also predicted that the GDP of India will be lowered by 9% this year because of negligible private spending amid the pandemic lock-down.

PM inaugurates Three Petroleum Sector Projects

- Three key projects related to the Petroleum Sector in Bihar has been dedicated to the Nation by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi through video conference on September 13, 2020.
- The three projects include- Durgapur-Banka section of the Paradip-Haldia-Durgapur Pipeline Augmentation Project LPG Bottling Plants in East Champaran and LPG Bottling Plants in Banka.
- The Bottling Plants will empower the Atmanirbhar Bihar by meeting the rising demand for LPG in the state.
- The combined capacity of the LPG Bottling Plants of East Champaran and Banka is 80 thousand cylinders per day.

Moody's revises estimate of India's Growth

- Global rating agency Moody's has revised its forecast of India's growth. It has estimated a double-digit contraction to be at 11.5% during the current fiscal year.
- It has raised its expectations of the economy's performance in the upcoming fiscal to 10.6% from 8.7% earlier.
- Moody's cited that the lock-down has impacted the economy severely.

- The rating agency has been cautioned of India's 'increasingly constrained' credit profile by a high debt burden and a weak financial system.

Ranking of States on Support to Start-up Ecosystems

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had conducted the second edition of the States' Startup Ranking Exercise.
- The key objective of the exercise was to foster competitiveness and work proactively towards uplifting the startup ecosystem.
- Gujarat has been categorised as the best performer among all States and one Union Territory (UT), Delhi.
- To fund the start-ups, 'Fund of Funds' and many PSUs were supporting and came forward with dedicated funds.

SAROD-Ports Launched by Shipping Ministry

- SAROD-Ports, stands for Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes – Ports, was launched by Union Minister of State for Shipping (I/C) Shri Mansukh Mandaviya on September 10, 2020 through a virtual ceremony in New Delhi. B
- In January 2018, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had approved amendments in the Model Concession Agreement (MCA).
- The amendments in the MCA, proposed the constitution of SAROD-Ports.
- The port acts as the dispute resolution mechanism for public private partnership (PPP) Projects at the Major Ports of India.

India Imposes Import Restrictions on Color TV Sets

- Following a ban on popular Chinese applications, the Indian Government has moved the import of Color TV sets from free to restricted.
- India imports the majority of TV sets from China.
- This move by the government is aimed to promote PM Modi's vision of "Vocal for Local" which will boost domestic manufacturing and balance the trade deficit the country is currently facing.
- The restriction announced recently by the DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) states that the import policy of the Color TV sets has been amended from free category to the restricted category.

What is the Digital Payment Index?

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on September 10, 2020 that a Digital Payments Index (DPI) will be launched. The index will assess and capture the extent of digitalisation of payments effectively.
- It is going to assess accurately about the penetration and deepening of various digital payment modes.
- It was recommended by a committee headed by Nandan Nilekani on deepening digital payment.
- This is a composite scoring system and it will allow both consumers and stakeholders to better study the local area developments in.

What is Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will digitally launch Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. He is also going to launch an e-Gopala application.
- The scheme will be launched for sustainable development of fisheries in India. It is going to be implemented between 2020-21 and 2024-25.
- Under the scheme, total funds allocations to the fisheries sector is Rs 20,050 crores.
- The scheme will also establish finfish hatcheries, biofloc ponds, ornamental fish culture units, ice plants, cages and fish feed plants.

What is Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will digitally launch Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. He is also going to launch an e-Gopala application.
- The scheme will be launched for sustainable development of fisheries in India. It is going to be implemented between 2020-21 and 2024-25.
- Under the scheme, total funds allocations to the fisheries sector is Rs 20,050 crores.
- The scheme will also establish finfish hatcheries, biofloc ponds, ornamental fish culture units, ice plants, cages and fish feed plants.

Five PSUs of India to join International Solar Alliance Coalition

- Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced, during the inaugural speech at the first World Solar Technology Summit held on September 8, 2020, that five Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) will join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action by contributing to the corpus fund of ISA.
- The installed solar capacity of India currently stands at 270 MW.
- Government has planned to make an addition of 60 MW in the next few years.
- The Government also targets to solarise 50% of fuel stations owned by PSUs within 5 years.

Logo for National Bamboo Mission released

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated 22 bamboo clusters in 9 States namely Gujarat, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Karnataka.
- A logo for the National Bamboo Mission has also been released through a contest held earlier.
- By the launch of logo, India is all set to increase the export of bamboo products.
- The winner of the logo contest is Shri Sai Ram Gaudi Edigi of Telangana who was selected from 2033 entries received on MyGov platform.

KV Kamath committee recommends 26 sectors for Loan Restructuring Scheme.

- The Reserve Bank has accepted the recommendations of the KV Kamath Committee on 'Resolution Framework for Covid19-related Stress' which was submitted by the panel on September 4, 2020.
- The Committee has recommended the financial ratios for 26 sectors which could be taken into consideration by lending institutions while finalizing a resolution plan for a borrower. Though the committee has not specified the amount to be used for restructuring.
- The 26 sectors are- Power, Construction, Iron & Steel Manufacturing, Roads, Real Estate, Trading-Wholesale Textiles, Chemicals, Consumer Durables/FMCG, Non-ferrous Metals, Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing, Logistics Gems & Jewellery, Cement, Auto Components, Hotel, Restaurants, Tourism, Mining, Plastic Products Manufacturing, Automobile Manufacturing, Auto Dealership, Aviation, Sugar, Port & Port services, Shipping, Building Materials, Corporate Retail Outlets.
- The sectors like textiles, wholesale trade, roads and engineering are most-affected by pandemic.

Khadi Agarbatti Atma Nirbhar Mission

- Union Minister for MSME, Shri Nitin Gadkari approved Khadi Agarbatti Atma Nirbhar Mission.
- It is a unique employment generation program proposed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- It will India Atma Nirbhar in Agarbatti production.

- It aims at creating employment for unemployed and migrant workers in different parts of the country and increasing domestic Agarbatti production substantially.

Atal Innovation Mission Partners with Freshworks to empower AIM Startup Innovators

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has partnered with Freshworks Inc. which is a customer-engagement software company to provide robust support to innovators and entrepreneurs in India.
- It aims to increase the efficacy of the institutions and startups under the AIM portfolio.
- It further targets to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among startup innovators.
- Freshworks Inc. will provide credits for its products to AIM and its beneficiaries. This step will empower startups to function efficiently.

RBI to conduct simultaneous purchase & sale of govt securities under OMO for Rs 10,000 crore

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have decided to conduct simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under the Open Market Operation (OMO) for Rs 10,000 crore.
- Under the operation, the short-term securities are transitioned into long term securities.
- This tool was first used by the US Federal Reserve in 1961 post recession in the aftermath of Korean war.
- Operation Twist usually leads to lower longer-term yields, which helps to boost the economy by making loans cheaper for the middle-income group.

testbook MONTHLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BANKING AND FINANCE CAPSULE

AUGUST 2020

DOWNLOAD
THE APP



testbook.com

“आपकी सफलता हमारा संकल्प”
SSC | Banking | Railways | Police

MONTHLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BANKING & FINANCE CAPSULE - AUGUST 2020

Chunauti: Next Generation Startup Challenge contest

- The Government of India launched “Chunauti”, the next generation start up challenge contest.
- Around 300 startups working in select areas are to be identified and provided with seed funds of up to Rs 25 lakhs.
- Highlights The challenge is launched with a special focus on Tier-II towns.
- Chunauti is Challenge Hunt Under NGIS for Advanced Uninhibited Technology Intervention.

Sashidhar Jagdishan is the new CEO of HDFC Bank

- Now it's officially confirmed that the Reserve Bank of India has given a green signal to the appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as the chief executive and managing director of HDFC Bank.
- Sashidhar Jagdishan who has been working with the HDFC bank since 1996 as the “change agent” will succeed Aditya Puri.
- Aditya Puri who has been associated with the bank for the last 25 years and has immensely contributed in building the bank from the scratch and making it the second-largest private sector bank in terms of assets.
- Mr. Puri will officially retire on 20th October this year. Earlier the bank had recommended three candidate names to Reserve Bank of India which in order of preference are, Sashidhar Jagdishan, Kaizad Bharucha, and Citi's Sunil Garg.

PM Modi to launch “Transparent Taxation-Honouring the Honest”

- Prime Minister Modi is to unveil a new platform called “Transparent Taxation-Honouring the Honest”.
- This was earlier announced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as “Tax Charter” in Budget 2020-21.
- The Government of India is to unveil fresh measures including big-ticket infrastructure projects to make local industry more competitive.
- The steps are a part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan and Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.

41st GST Council meet

- The finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman chaired the 41st GST Council meet.
- The council discussed states' compensation and revenue losses.
- The following were the key discussions at the 41st GST Council meet In the fiscal year 2020-21, the GST shortfall is Rs 2.35 lakh crores.
- There is a shortfall in compensation cess.

RBI Annual Report 2019-20

- The Reserve Bank of India released its annual report 2019-20.

- The report has made it very clear to the world that the apex bank stands as a bank with the highest levels of financial resilience globally.
- According to the report, the total income in 2019-20 has increased by 28.97%.
- The Gross Non-Performing Ratio of banking system have declined to 9.1% as compared to 11.2% in March 2019

Finance Minister: Businesses with annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakhs exempted from GST

- The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman announced that the businesses with annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakhs are exempted from GST.
- Earlier the limit was Rs 20 lakhs.
- The announcement was made through a series of tweets on the occasion of the first death anniversary of former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
- Also, the Finance Ministry added that those people with turnover up to Rs 1.5 crores shall opt for Composition Scheme and shall pay 1% tax.

Farm Sector grows as GDP contracts for first time in India

- The National Statistical Office is to release its data for this quarter on August 31, 2020. According to the NSO officials, in spite of agricultural production going up in the country, the GDP is contracting.
- This is the first time India is witnessing fall in GDP in spite of agricultural production going up.
- The quarterly estimates of GDP began in 1996-97.
- The GDP of India registered at -5.2% in 1979-80. In the same year, the agriculture growth was at 012%.

Gol: 21 Centres of Excellence to be launched to incubate new technologies

- The State-Owned Technology Parks in India (STPI) are to have the largest ecosystem to incubate new technologies.
- This is to be achieved by setting up 21 Centres of Excellence in these parks. Highlights India has centres of excellence (CoE) for Internet of Things, electric vehicles, block chain, animation and gaming, etc.
- The Government of India has already launched 12 CoEs. Of this, three are dedicated to agriculture.
- Apart from agriculture, the CoE will focus on forestry and fisheries. This is because agriculture, forestry and fisheries contribute to 17% of India's GDP.

Ramesh Chand Task Force recommends linking sugarcane prices to sugar rates

- Ramesh Chand task force by Niti Aayog has recommended to link sugarcane prices to sugar rates.
- The task force highlighted that it is essential to keep the industry in good financial health.
- In its report, the task force has recommended a one-time increase in the minimum sugar price at Rs 33 per kg.
- This report of the task force was finalized in March 2020 and published on August 20.

RBI unveils National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE) to be implemented for the period of next five years i.e. 2020 to 2025.

- This is the second national strategy; the first NSFE was launched in 2013. NSFE 2020-25 has been launched with an aim of achieving a financially aware and empowered India.
- The bank came up with a 5-Core Actions approach with this second national strategy.

Union Cabinet: Three Airports redevelopment approved

- The Union Cabinet approved redevelopment of three airports in Jaipur, Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati.
- The projects are to be developed by Adani Enterprises Limited. Highlights The Union Cabinet approved to provide Rs 1,070 crores to handle the redevelopment projects.
- The three airports being developed are to be leased for operation, management and development in public-private partnership.
- The Union Cabinet approved to provide Rs 1,070 crores to handle the redevelopment projects. The three airports being developed are to be leased for operation, management and development in public-private partnership.

Framework for Authorisation of Pan-India Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments released by RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India released Framework for Authorisation of Pan-India Umbrella Entity for retail payments.
- The RBI will set up a new pan-India umbrella entity with a minimum paid-up capital of Rs 500 crores.
- The entity will set up, operate, manage new payment systems that comprises of ATMs, Aadhaar based payments, and label Point of Sales, remittance services. Also, it will develop standards, payment methods and technologies related issues.
- The authorisation is to be issued by the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems. The directors of the board are to be appointed by the Apex bank.

Union Cabinet approved National Recruitment Agency

- The Union Cabinet approved to set up a National Recruitment Agency.
- The agency is to conduct a Common Eligibility Test for Public Sector Banks and Government Jobs.
- The Common Eligibility Test (CET) is to be conducted for non-gazetted posts in public sector banks and central government.
- The score of CET is valid for three years. Candidates qualifying the test can apply for a higher level of examination.

Drone based Surveillance System introduced in Indian Railways

- The Ministry of Railways announced that the drone-based surveillance system is to be introduced for the purpose of railway security.
- The Railway Protection Force has so far procured drones at a cost of Rs 32 lakhs.
- The drones are to be implemented in Central Railway, South Eastern Railway, Central Railway and South Western Railway.
- In order to implement the surveillance, the Ministry has procured Ninja UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle). The drones are capable of video streaming and real time tracking.

ADB approves 1 billion USD for Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System

- The Asian Development Bank approved 1 billion USD loan to support construction of modern high-speed Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System in India.
- The system is first of its kind.
- The system aims to help improve regional connectivity by establishing transit options connecting Delhi and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh.
- The system

PM Modi reviews Multi-Modal Connectivity of Economic Zones Project

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting to review preparations for the National Master plan on Multi-modal Connectivity of Economic Zones Project.
- This will boost infrastructure, productivity, economic progress and opportunity for youngsters.
- A Special Economic Zone is a territory within national borders.
- The SEZs are created to promote investment, generate employment opportunities and also administer the economic areas in a better way.

Karnataka to build Industrial Corridor between Bidar and Mysuru

- The Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister C N Ashwath Narayan announced that the State Government is to build an industrial corridor between Mysuru and Bidar.
- This is being done to augment the development of commerce and industry in the state.
- The projects will help Karnataka achieve its target of 35 lakh crore of GDP in next five years.
The State Government of Karnataka has launched several steps recently to boost the development in the state.
- This includes Simplification of labour laws, APMC amendment act and land reforms amendment act.

Group of Ministers: E-Way Bill for Intra-State Movement of Gold

- A high-level ministerial panel of Goods and Services Tax council recently favoured e-way bill for intra state movement of gold.
- It will help track movement of gold under tax evasion and smuggling.
- The E-Way bill is an electronic challan that shows that tax has been completely paid before goods are moved from one place to another.
- This includes within the states and also outside the states.

Facts Box: India ranks first in Organic Farming

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare recently announced that India ranks first in Organic Farming.
- Also, India ranks ninth in terms of areas under Organic Farming. Sikkim was the first state in the world to become completely organic.
- The other states that have similar targets include Uttarakhand and Tripura.
- India has launched two schemes to assist farmers in adopting organic farming.

RBI Monetary Policy: Bank keeps repo rate unchanged

- The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India held its meeting in New Delhi.
- The committee was headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.
- During the meet, the following key decisions were taken The repo rate was kept the same at 4% The reverse repo rate was kept the same.
- The reverse repo rate was kept at 3.35%

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy receive proposals over 10 GW of fresh solar power Equipment

- With the Government of India pushing solar power in several aspects including Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has received several proposals to make Solar Equipment for over 10 GW.
- India has set its target to set up 100 GW of solar energy by 2022.
- India has already achieved 31 GW by October 2019.
- Currently, the country is focusing on domestic manufacturing to reduce dependency on imports.

Dashboard for National Infrastructure Pipeline launched

- The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently launched the National Infrastructure Pipeline online dashboard.
- The dashboard is to act as a one-stop solution for all stakeholders who are looking for information about infrastructure projects.
- The Finance Minister had announced an outlay of Rs 100 lakh crore for infrastructure projects in the country for the next 5 years in her Budget Speech 2019-20. The dashboard is to be hosted by India Investment Grid (IIG).
- IIG is a dynamic online platform that showcases real time investment opportunities in the country.

IBBI amends Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India Regulations, 2017

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy board of India recently amended the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India Regulations.
- This is the second amendment.
- The amendment has made major changes to the voluntary liquidation process.
- About the Amendment The amendment allows the corporate persons to replace the liquidator with another liquidator or insolvency professional to initiate a voluntary liquidation process.

Kamath Panel constituted by RBI to restructure loans

- The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a panel under former ICICI bank CEO K V Kamath.
- The panel will make recommendations on financial parameters that are to be considered to structure loans that are impacted by COVID-19.
- The Committee will recommend financial parameters that are required to be factored in the resolution plans.
- Basically, the committee is to suggest parameters that will help in resolution of COVID-19 related stressed assets.

RBI launches “Innovation Hub” for Financial Inclusion

- The Reserve Bank of India launched “Innovation Hub” for ideation and incubation of new capabilities that can be leveraged to deepen financial inclusion.
- The hub is being launched to promote the start ups in the country.
- It will help in ideation and incubation of new capabilities.
- This will in turn help to deepen financial inclusion in the country and promote efficient banking services.

Government notification on E-invoicing

- The central government comes up with a centralized e-invoicing scheme for businesses having turnover more than 500 crores.
- As per the recent scheme, it will be mandatory for all those businesses with a turnover of more than 500 crores to generate all their B2B invoices on a centralized government portal which will go live from 1st October.
- Till now, all the companies be it, small-cap, mid-cap or large-cap use their own mechanism for generating invoices.
- These invoices vary company to company and can be forged easily to manipulate the buyer or for doing any other forgery.

India Imposes Import Restrictions on Color TV Sets

- Following a ban on popular Chinese applications, the Indian Government has moved the import of Color TV sets from free to restrict.
- India imports the majority of TV sets from China.
- This move by the government is aimed to promote PM Modi’s vision of “Vocal for Local” which will boost domestic manufacturing and balance the trade deficit the country is currently facing.
- The restriction announced recently by the DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) states that the import policy of the Color TV sets has been amended from free category to the restricted category.

Khadi Agarbatti Atma Nirbhar Mission Launched

- Proposed by KVIC (Khadi and Village Industries Commission) and approved by the Minister of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari Khadi Agarbatti Atma Nirbhar Mission is all set to generate employment for the local artisans making India self-reliant in agarbatti production.
- The set programme is dedicated to creating employment for unemployed and migrant workers.
- Last month itself the proposal was submitted to the Ministry.
- Upon its implementation, numerous jobs will be created in the Agarbatti industry.

testbook MONTHLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BANKING AND FINANCE CAPSULE

JULY 2020

DOWNLOAD
THE APP



testbook.com

“आपकी सफलता हमारा संकल्प”
SSC | Banking | Railways | Police

MONTHLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BANKING & FINANCE CAPSULE - JULY 2020

Pending Income Tax Refunds of Rs 62,361 crore paid to a total of 20,44,597 Taxpayers from 8th April to 30th June

- Not only to health and freedom of movement, but the COVID-19 pandemic has also made a much larger financial impact on the economy for individuals and business entities (including MSMEs) across the world. Between 8th April to 30th June 2020 which had a total of 56 weekdays (Monday to Friday), the Income Tax Department of India has made 76 tax refunds per minute. In total, more than Rs 62,361 crore has been refunded to Individual Taxpayers and Business Entities during this time period.
- The complete Rs 62,361 crore of refunds were directly transferred into the bank accounts of the taxpayers.
- 19,07,853 Individual Taxpayers were paid a refund amounting to Rs 23,453.57 crore while 1,36,744 Business Entities were refunded a total of Rs 38,908.
- On 8th April 2020, the Department of Revenue (under Union Ministry of Finance) issued a press note under which for Individual Taxpayers-all pending income tax refunds of up to Rs 5 lakh were asked to be refunded, while for business entities-GST and Customs Refunds pending were also asked to be refunded, while for business entities-GST and Customs Refunds pending were also asked to be refunded to the Income Tax Department for providing immediate financial relief.

Second Tranche of India's First Corporate Bond ETF will be offered from 14th July

- The Second Tranche of India's first Corporate Bond Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF)- Bharat Bond ETF will be open for subscription from 14th July to 17th July 2020.
- Two new ETF series with maturities April 2025 and April 2031 will be offered under the new fund offer.
- The base price will be Rs 3,000 crore with oversubscription up to Rs 11,000 crore in the second tranche of Bharat Bond ETF.
- In this maiden offer, the Bharat Bond ETF fetched Rs 12,400 crore.
- The base size of the issue under the first tranche of Bharat Bond ETF was Rs 7000 crore, it was oversubscribed 1.7 times that took the collections past Rs 12000 crores.

Govt extends deadline for filing income tax returns till September 30

- Considering current global pandemic COVID-19 the government of India on Wednesday for the third time extended the deadline for filing income tax returns tax returns for 2018-19 financial year for two months till September 30.
- Before this in March, the due date was extended from March 31 to June 30 for the first time and again in late June, it was extended by a month till July 31.
- The rule also lay norms to provide relaxations for senior citizens on interest payments on self-assessment tax.

- In the case of a senior citizen, those not having business or income from the profession will not be required to pay advance tax. The extension will provide a big relief to taxpayers.

ADB approves 3 million US Dollar to India to fight against COVID-19

- Asian Development Bank has approved a USD 3 million (equivalent to Rs 22 crore) grant to India from the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund to support India's battle against COVID-19.
- The grant is financed by the Japanese government. It will be used to seek thermal scanners, enhancement of disease surveillance and early detection, contact tracing, and treatment.
- COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) programme of ADB provides immediate support for urgent public health measures as well as social protection measures for the poor and economically vulnerable, women and unprivileged groups.
- The four-day fair that was conducted online focused on markets such as Europe and the United States.
- COVID-19 pandemic response option (CPRO) was established to provide assistance to the member countries' pandemic response.

Significant Decline in Trade deficit with China, from 53.56 billion in 2018-19 to 48.66 billion in 2019-20

- Tensions escalated at the border between India and China from the last week of April 2020.
- The Galwan Valley clashes on 15th June 2020 have further intensified the call to boycott Chinese goods and products.
- However, there was already a significant decline in India's trade deficit with China for the Financial Year 2019-20 (ending on 31st March 2020).
- With the call to boycott Chinese goods and products in the country on the rise, the trade deficit is likely to witness a larger drop in the current financial year.

IBBI: "Special Insolvency Resolution Framework for MSMEs"

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India Chief M S Sahoo announced that a special resolution framework for MSMEs is being prepared.
- The Government of India has already suspended several provisions of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to tackle COVID-19 crisis.
- It includes exemption of COVID-19 related debts.
- The GoI also passed the IBC (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 to prevent companies from being pushed into insolvency.

Indian Accounting Standards amended

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India amended the Indian Accounting Standards related to leasing.
- The Ind-AS 103, 116 and other standards have been amended.
- The Ind-AS 103 is related to business combinations.

- On the other hand, Ind-AS 116 standard is related to principles for presentation, recognition and disclosure of leases.

India-Sri Lanka: RBI extends 400 million USD of Currency Swap

- The Reserve Bank of India extended 400 million USD of currency swap with Sri Lanka.
- The currency swap agreement is to remain till November 2022.
- The currency swap facility was extended under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework.
- India is currently considering bilateral currency swap request of Sri Lanka for 1.1 billion USD. The arrangement is being made to address the economic slowdown.

NPCI launches UPI Auto Pay Feature

- The National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) launched UPI Auto Pay feature for recurring payments.
- The feature launched is dedicated to recurring payments.
- It can be used for multiple financial purposes such as booking bus pass, utility payment, paying DTH, train ticket among others.
- The organizations such as Policy Bazaar, Axis Bank, Timesprime, Razor Pay and Pay U India are to provide Auto Pay option to customers using recurring payments.

FIU to get PAN data from Income Tax Department to check suspicious large transactions

- The Financial Intelligence Unit is the nodal agency authorized to obtain cash transaction reports from private and public sector banks.
- The FIU receives reports every month to analyse suspicious cases.
- This time, the Income Tax Department has allowed to share PAN details of individuals to dig deeper into large suspicious accounts.
- FIU forwards suspicious accounts to law enforcement, intelligence agencies and investigative agencies of GoI.

Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant reaches criticality.

- PM Modi congratulated Kakrapur Atomic Plant of Gujarat to reach its criticality.
- Criticality is reaching normal operating conditions.
- The Kakrapar Atomic Plant produces power from indigenously built reactors and is a major step of GoI in promoting Make in India campaign.
- The reactor generates 700 MW of power.

CBDT and CBIC sign MoU on Data Sharing

- The Government of India had recently announced that the import duty on bamboo sticks is to be increased from 10% to 25%.

- This is to have a great impact on the Agarbatti industry creating at least 1 lakh new jobs according to KVIC (Khadi and Village Industries Commission).
- The decision of enhancing the import duty was taken by the Ministry of Finance to discourage heavy import and help local industries grow.
- This has great importance as the import of bamboo sticks from Vietnam and China caused huge employment losses in India.

RBI extends restrictions on PMC Bank, eases Withdrawal Limit

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) signed Memorandum of Understanding to exchange data with each other.
- The agreement will help to facilitate exchange of information between the boards on a regular basis.
- The agreement signed replaces the former agreement signed between Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) and CBDT
- The CBIC was established after GST (Goods and Services Tax) was introduced.

India Business Council to host 45th India Ideas Summit 2020

- The India Business Council is to host India Ideas Summit 2020. PM Modi is to address the summit.
- The Summit will convene government leaders and businessmen for discussion about US-India partnership and trends in shaping trade and investment, globalization and future works.
- The council was formed in 1975. It encourages private sectors of both the United States and India to enhance their investment flows.
- It serves as direct link between government leaders and businessmen.

India's first Charging Plaza inaugurated

- The Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy Shri R K Singh inaugurated first public Electric Vehicle charging plaza at Chelmsford club in New Delhi.
- Along with the charging plaza, the minister also inaugurated RAISE. RAISE is Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve Indoor Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency (RAISE). It is a joint initiative of EESL and USAID.
- The charging Plaza was established by EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Limited) and NDMC (New Delhi Municipal Council).
- The plaza is to host five Electric Vehicle chargers of different specifications.

Indian Spices Exports increase by 23%

- The Ministry of Commerce released data on exports. According to the data, the export of spices has increased.
- In June 2020, Indian Spices exports has increased by 23% as compared to the same month in 2019.
- The exports of spices have earned 359 million USD in June 2020 as compared to 292 million USD in June 2019.
- The overall exports of the country in June 2020 was at 21.91 billion USD as compared to 25.01 billion USD in June 2019.

CBDT launches a new Utility Tool for Banks and Post Offices for Proper Implementation of Finance Act 2020

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has informed on 12th July 2020 that a new Utility Tool has been launched that will facilitate the Banks and Post Offices across the country with the accurate TDS rate (Tax Deduction at Source) applicable on cash withdrawals.
- The utility tool can be accessed by the Banks and Post Offices by visiting the web portal- 'incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in'.
- The Utility Tool is available under the name' Verification of Applicability u/s 194N' on the portal.
- The Utility Tool was developed based on the Data of Cash Withdrawal from across the country that has suggested that large amounts of cash were withdrawn by Individuals who had never filed income tax returns.

India has become the Second Largest Source of FDI for the United Kingdom

- The statistics for the number of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects in the Financial Year 2019-20 in the United Kingdom was released on 10th July 2020 by the United Kingdom Government's Department for International Trade (DIT). As per the Figures provided by DIT, the second-largest source of FDI in the United Kingdom is now from India.
- The United States continues to be the number one source of FDI in the United Kingdom with 462 projects resulting in 20,131 jobs. Having invested in 120 projects, India has moved to second place.
- These 120 projects have resulted in 5,429 jobs.
- In Financial Year 2018-19 India was in third place with 106 projects that resulted in 4858 jobs.

Rs 6,195.08 crore released to 14 States as Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant in July 2020

- In order to boost Infrastructure projects across all the sectors at a time of a global pandemic, several decisions were taken by the Union Cabinet under the chairmanship of Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 24th June 2020.
- The aim of setting up AHIDF is to unlock private sector investments in the animal husbandry sector.
- Through the fund, Infrastructural developments will be promoted in dairy, animal feed, and meat processing plants.
- As per Government estimate, the fund will help in creating up to 35 lakh jobs across the country.

World Bank Approves USD 500 Million to Bangladesh for Improving Road Connectivity

- The Department of Expenditure (under Union Finance Ministry) has released a notice on 8th July 2020 as per which Rs 6,195.08 crore has been released to 14 states in the country.
- The amount released is as per the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission.
- Under the Post-Devolution Revenue Deficit grant for Financial Year 2020-21, this is the fourth equated monthly installment.
- The first installment was released on 13th March 2020, followed by Second in May and the Third installment in June 2020.

UltraTech Cement's subsidiary Krishna Holdings to Sell its Entire 92.5% Stake from China's Shandong Binani Rongan Cement

- Subsidiary of UltraTech Nathdwara Cement (previously known as Binani Cement)- Krishna Holdings (Incorporated at Singapore) will sell its entire equity shareholding of 92.5 percent stake from China's Shandong Binani Rongan Cement.
- The 92.5 percent stake is worth around USD 120 million (845 million Chinese RNB-Renminbi).
- UltraTech Nathdwara Cement is a subsidiary company of Mumbai based UltraTech Cement Limited.
- This was announced on 7th July 2020 during a regulatory filing by UltraTech Cement Limited.

Loans worth over Rs 1.10 lakh crore sanctioned by Banks under ECLGS until 1st July

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) on 13th May 2020.
- ECLGS was announced as a part of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat Package for supporting the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country.
- As of 1st July 2020, Public Sector Banks and Private Banks across the country have sanctioned loans worth over Rs 1.10 lakh crore under ECLGS.
- Out of this Rs 1.10 lakh crore sanctioned, more than Rs 52000 crore of the loan amount has been already disbursed until 1st July.

Piyush Goyal hints India's Export in June 2020 has 'Recovered' after Contracting Drastically in April and May

- The setbacks to the Indian economy in the first two months of the Financial Year (FY) due to the COVID-19 pandemic seems to be finally over as on 3rd July 2020 the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal informed that merchandise export figures in the month of June 2020 the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal informed that merchandise export figures in the month of June 2020 have touched almost 88 percent of the June 2019 figure. Earlier on 22nd June 2020, Piyush Goyal had informed that the contraction in outbound shipments are 10-12 percent in the month of June 2020 if compared to 60 percent in April 2020.
- The overall export data for the month of June 2020 will be released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 15th July 2020.
- After three straight months of decline in Export figures, the signs of improvements bring about a much-needed relief for the Indian economy.
- Overall combined Exports (Merchandise and Services) for the April and May month of 2020 were USD 61.57 billion, that is 33.66 percent decline in Overall combined Exports from the April and May 2019 figures.

testbook MONTHLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BANKING AND FINANCE CAPSULE

JUNE 2020

DOWNLOAD
THE APP



GET IT ON
Google Play



testbook.com

“आपकी सफलता हमारा संकल्प”

SSC | Banking | Railways | Police

MONTHLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BANKING & FINANCE CAPSULE (June 2020)

Banking News

India becomes 12th Largest Holder of US Government Securities at April 2020 end

- Despite low returns, the Treasury Securities (are of four types- Bills, Notes, Bonds, Inflation-Protected Securities) backed by the United States Treasury Department is one of the safest assets for any Central Bank around the world. With USD 157.4 billion at the end of April 2020, India has become the 12th largest holder of United States Government Securities.
- India's holding touched an all-time record high of USD 177.5 billion at the end of February 2020 but was reduced to USD 156.5 billion at the end of March 2020.
- This significant drop was due to the financial impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic.
- As economic uncertainties increased following lockdowns in most countries across the world, securities were sold by India in the month of March.

First virtual Trade Fair of India

- The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts hosted a four day virtual fair for around 200 Indian Exporters.
- The exporters were mainly from the industries of fashion jewelry and accessories
- The four-day fair that was conducted online focused on markets such as Europe and the United States.
- The fair generated business opportunities of Rs 153 crores. Every seller was provided with a virtual stall.

RIL becomes first Indian Company to be valued at USD 150 Billion

- In rupee term, Mumbai based Indian Multinational conglomerate company, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) on 19th June 2020 was valued at 150 billion following a rise in the share market.
- This also made RIL the first-ever Indian company to achieve a market value of above Rs 11 lakh crore.
- The positive growth in the shares of the company was registered after it announced that the company has become net debt-free well ahead of its target of March 2021.
- As of 31st March 2020, Reliance has a total debt of Rs 161,035 crore. Despite a pandemic, airlines & other international travel being suspended and a lockdown in most International business hubs across the world, in a period of 58 days, Reliance Industries was able to raise more than Rs 168,818 crore.

National Employment Policy

- The Ministry of Labour is to fast track the National Employment Policy. The main idea of framing the National Employment Policy is to lay out a roadmap that will provide incentives for employment generation.

- The policy will aim at absorbing an additional 5 million workforce every year. Also, the policy will focus on formalizing the 500 million workforce in the country. It will also ensure social security and job security for them.
- The policy will frame a road map to provide incentives for employment generation.
- Also, the policy will focus on the challenges thrown by the COVID-19.

COVID-19: Fifth Recession of India

- Since Independence in 1947, India has faced four recessions. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the recessions occurred in 1958, 1966, 1973 and 1980.
- Recession is defined as the fall in economic activities of the country along with decline in sales, income and employment.
- India has so far seen four such negative GDP growth. In 1958, the GDP growth was -1.2%, in 1966 it was -3.6%, in 1973 it was -0.32% and in 1980 the 1980 the GDP growth was -5.2%.
- The Recession that India faced in 1957 was due to the Balance of Payment problem.

RBI sets up P K Mohanty Panel to Review Ownership of Private Banks

- On June 12, 2020, the Reserve Bank of India constituted an internal working group.
- The working group is to review guidelines of ownership of private sector banks.
- The panel constituted by the apex bank is to examine regulations to hold financial subsidiaries through non-operative financial holding company.
- The group is to be headed by the Executive Director of RBI, P K Mohanty.

NHAI: First Construction Sector to become digital completely

- The National Highway Authority of India became the first construction sector to become digital completely.
- The project management workflow of NHAI has been transformed from manual to online portal.
- The platform Artificial Intelligence and cloud-based big data analytics have been used to bring in the transform.
- With social distancing being one of the key methods to prevent COVID-19 infection, the online platform will help NHAI employees to continue works without physical contact.

Police Use of Facial Recognition banned by Amazon

- On June 11, 2020, the E-Commerce giant Amazon banned the use of its software "Rekognition" by the police.
- The software used to quickly compare a picture with the police data bases that holds hundreds of 1000s of photos.
- The facial recognition technology has been criticized over some time.
- This is mainly because most of the algorithms of the Rekognition software are more likely to wrongly identify the faces of black people than those of white people.

Enhanced Import Duty on Bamboo Sticks

- The Government of India had recently announced that the import duty on bamboo sticks is to be increased from 10% to 25%.

- This is to have a great impact on the Agarbatti industry creating at least 1 lakh new jobs according to KVIC (Khadi and Village Industries Commission).
- The decision of enhancing the import duty was taken by the Ministry of Finance to discourage heavy import and help local industries grow.
- This has great importance as the import of bamboo sticks from Vietnam and China caused huge employment losses in India.

RBI extends restrictions on PMC Bank, eases Withdrawal Limit

- The Reserve Bank of India on 19th June 2020 has extended the regulatory restrictions imposed on the multi-state urban Cooperative Bank, Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank Limited (PMC Bank) by another 6 months.
- As per the earlier notice dated March 21st, 2020, the regulatory restrictions were up to 22nd June 2020, which now has been extended up to 22nd December.
- However, the customers were provided relief in terms of withdrawal limit set by the RBI earlier in November last year as now the limit was enhanced from the earlier Rs 50,000 to Rs 1,00,000 per depositor.
- The RBI went on to inform that with the relaxation in withdrawal limits, more than 84 percent of the customers of the bank will now be able to withdraw the entire available balance from their accounts.

GoI facilitates filing of NIL GST Return through SMS

- The Government of India has allowed taxpayers to fill their NIL GST monthly return form through SMS.
- This will improve ease of GST compliance to more than 22 lakh taxpayers.
- The facility of filing the NIL form through SMS has been made available in GSTN portal. The portal also allows the users to track their returns.
- The NIL GST is filed when a registered GST payer has not turned out taxable supplies for which the return is to be prepared.

RBI creates Payment Infrastructure Development Fund

- The Reserve Bank of India created a Payment Infrastructure Development Fund of Rs 500 crores.
- The apex bank has made an initial contribution of Rs 250 crores towards the funds.
- The rest of the fund is to come through the card issuing banks.
- The fund has been created to increase point of sale infrastructure and other digital payment infrastructure in the country.

42 Crore Citizens received Financial Aid of Rs 65,454 Crore under PMGKP

- As per the data provided by the Union Finance Ministry on 20th June 2020, through Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP), a total of 42 crore citizens across the country have received financial aid of Rs 65,454 crore to date.
- The amount was distributed in the 3 forms, :(i) Through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to beneficiaries such as women Jhan Dhan account holders, senior citizens/differently-abled/widows registered under Below Poverty Line (BPL), farmers (PM-KISAN), etc (ii) Providing free foodgrains to all families registered as BPL cardholders, and (iii) by providing free LPG cylinder to women registered under Ujjwala Yojana.
- This package was announced by Finance Minister on 26th March 2020.

- The package was announced for providing economic support at the time of nationwide lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic for the financially weaker section of the society.

RBI cuts Reverse Repo rate to 3.75%, Rs 50,000 crores for LTRO 2.0

- The decision to bring Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) and Multi-State Cooperative Banks (MSCBs) under the supervision of India's Central Bank- the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was taken on 24th June 2020 during a meeting of the Union Cabinet.
- The ordinance will immediately come into effect from the date of signature of the President of India.
- The decision was taken by the Government following the financial irregularities of the Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank that was unearthed in the month of September 2019.
- RBI's supervision means that the 8.6 crore depositors of these 1482 UCBs and 58 MSCBs around the country will be able to get the added protection and comfort that are at present applicable for the scheduled commercial banks in the country, such as Bank Deposit Insurance to per depositor of up to Rs 5 lakh, etc.

Cabinet Approves Ordinance to bring UCBs and MSCBs under RBI supervision

- On April 18, 2020, the Ministry of Renewable Energy initiated big action to set up Renewable Manufacturing parks in India.
- The Ministry of Renewable Energy initiated manufacturing hubs to meet domestic and global demands.
- In order to achieve this the central government has directed the states to identify land parcels between 50 acres and 500 acres to set up these parks.
- The states have been directed as land is a state subject.

Decisions taken by the Union Cabinet on 24th June to Boost Infrastructure Projects

- In order to boost Infrastructure projects across all the sectors at a time of a global pandemic, several decisions were taken by the Union Cabinet under the chairmanship of Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 24th June 2020.
- The aim of setting up AHIDF is to unlock private sector investments in the animal husbandry sector.
- Through the fund, Infrastructural developments will be promoted in dairy, animal feed, and meat processing plants.
- As per Government estimate, the fund will help in creating up to 35 lakh jobs across the country.

World Bank Approves USD 500 Million to Bangladesh for Improving Road Connectivity

- The World Bank has approved a loan amount of USD 500 million to Bangladesh on 23rd June 2020.
- The amount was approved for improving road connectivity along the Jashore-Jhenaidah corridor that will benefit 4 western districts of Bangladesh.
- This will be Phase I of the overall USD 1.4 billion multi-phase projects of the World Bank for improving road connectivity in Bangladesh.
- The World Bank stated that the western districts of Bangladesh are endowed with much natural and agricultural produce.

World Bank Group Approves USD 500 Million under STARS Program

- On 28th June 2020, the World Bank Group announced that a loan of USD 500 million (approx Rs 3700 crore) was approved by its Board of Executives on 24th June 2020 for improving the quality and governance of the school education system in India.
- The loan approved will benefit 10 million teachers and 250 million school students across 1.5 million schools in 6 states of India.
- The 6 Indian States are Rajasthan, Odisha, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Maharashtra.
- The loan of USD 500 million will be sanctioned by the lending arm of the World Bank Group- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development(IBRD)

Indian Government signs agreement for Two Projects in Tamil Nadu with World Bank Group

- On 29th June 2020, an agreement was signed between the World Bank Group and the Government of India for providing urban poor in the state of Tamil Nadu access to affordable housing. The agreement signed has two projects under it- (i) Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Program and (ii) Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project.
- The loans for both the projects are from the lending arm of the World Bank Group the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
- The maturity of both the loans including 3.5 years grace period is 20 years.
- As per the agreement, a loan of USD 200 million has been sanctioned under the Program.

RBI to conduct Special OMOs on 2nd July to Pump up Liquidity

- On 29th June 2020, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it will be conducting a special Open Market Operations (OMOs) on 2nd July 2020.
- The Open Market Operations was announced after reviewing the market conditions and evolving liquidity situations in banks.
- Through this special Open Market Operations, the aim will be to pump up liquidity in the financial system of the country.
- Government Securities worth Rs 10,000 crore will be purchased and sold simultaneously during the special Open Market Operations.

Important Definitions

Terms	Definitions
Repo Rate	When RBI provides a loan to the bank for short-term between 1 to 90, RBI takes some interest from the bank which is termed as Repo Rate.
Reverse Repo Rate	When bank deposit it's excess money in RBI then RBI provides some interest to that bank. This interest is known as Reverse Repo Rate.
SLR – (Statutory Liquidity Ratio)	Every bank has to maintain a certain % of their total deposits in the form of (Gold + Cash + bonds + Securities) with themselves at the end of every business days. Current SLR is 20.75%.
CRR - (Cash Reserve Ratio)	Cash reserve ratio is the minimum amount of deposits that banks have to maintain with the Central Bank. Current CRR is 4%

Bank Rate	Bank rate is also termed as “Discount Rate” The rate through which RBI charges certain % for providing money to other banks without any security for a Long period of time for 90 Days & Current Bank Rate is 6.00%.
Marginal standing facility	MSF is the rate through which bank can borrow funds for Short time – Overnight basis. Current MSF is 6.00%.
Cheque	A cheque is an unconditional order addressed to a banker, signed by the person who has deposited money with a banker, requesting him to pay on demand a certain sum of money only to the order of the certain person or to the bearer of the instrument.
Bill of Exchange	A bill of exchange is a non-interest bearing written order which is used primarily in foreign trade which binds one party to pay a fixed amount of money to another party at a decided future date. A bill of exchange is signed by the creditor and accepted by a debtor.
Unified Payment Interface	This interface will integrate the entire payment systems in India. It uses a single application programme interface with a series of Application Programme interface (API'S). The mobile devices are the primary object for all the payments.
Current Account Deficit	The current account deficit is a measurement of a country's trade where the value of the goods and services it imports exceeds the value of the products it exports.
Balance of Trade	The difference between the country's exports and the value of its imports are known as the Balance of Trade. It normally incorporates trade in services unless mentioned as the balance of merchandise trade. It includes earnings (interest, dividends, etc.) on financial assets.
Balance of Payment	A list that states a country's transactions with other countries for a certain time period (generally 1 year). Payments into the country (receipts) are entered as positive numbers, called credits. Payments out of the country (payments) are entered as negative numbers called debts. A single number summarises the country's international transactions: the balance of payments surplus.
Retail banking	Retail banking is a type of banking in which direct dealing with retail customers is done. This type of banking is also popularly known as consumer banking or personal banking. It is the visible face of banking to the general public.
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	Gross domestic product is a monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced in a specific time period, often annually.
Cryptocurrency	Cryptocurrency is a digital asset designed to work as a medium of exchange that uses strong cryptography to secure financial transactions, control the creation of additional units and verify the transfer of assets.
Bitcoin	Bitcoin is a virtual currency/ cryptocurrency and a payment system. It can be defined as decentralized means of tracking and assigning wealth or economy, it is a software protocol. Bitcoin uses two cryptographic keys, one public (username) and one private (password) are generated. 1Bitcoin= 108 Satoshi.

Call money	Call/Notice money is the money borrowed on demand for a very short period. When money is lent for a day it is known as Call Money. Read: Money Market Instruments
Notice money	When the money is borrowed or lent for more than a day up to 14 days it is called Notice Money.
Difference between Capital market and Money market	A capital market is an organised market which provides long-term finance for business. Whereas Money market provides short-term finance for business
Scheduled bank	Banks which are included in the 2nd Schedule of RBI Act 1934 are known as a scheduled commercial bank. These banks should fulfil two conditions: Paid up capital and collected funds should not be less than Rs.5 Lacs. Any activity of the Bank should not adversely affect the interests of the customers.
Non-Performing Assets	NPA is an asset of a bank which is not producing any income. Bank Usually classify as nonperforming assets any commercial loans which are more than 90 days overdue and any consumer loans which are more than 180 days overdue.
Consumer Price Index	The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure that examines the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services, such as transportation, food, and medical care. It is calculated by taking price changes for each item in the predetermined basket of goods and averaging them.
Wholesale Price Index	A wholesale price index (WPI) is an index that measures and tracks the changes in the price of goods in the stages before the retail level – that is, goods that are sold in bulk and traded between entities or businesses instead of consumers.
Inflation	Inflation is a State in which the Value of Money is falling and the Prices are rising, over a period of time.
Basel 3 norms	Basel III is an international regulatory accord that introduced a set of reforms designed to improve the regulation, supervision and risk management within the banking sector. ... Largely in response to the credit crisis, banks are required to maintain proper leverage ratios and meet certain minimum capital requirements.
IPOs	An initial public offering (IPO) refers to the process of offering shares of a private corporation to the public in a new stock issuance.
Money laundering	Money laundering is a process of conversion of illegal money from various sources to appear to have originated from legitimated (Legal) source. The major sources of illegal money are tax evasion, bribe, Smuggling etc.

testbook MONTHLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BANKING AND FINANCE CAPSULE

MAY 2020

DOWNLOAD
THE APP



GET IT ON
Google Play



testbook.com

“आपकी सफलता हमारा संकल्प”

SSC | Banking | Railways | Police

Monthly General Knowledge Banking & Finance Capsule (May 2020)

Monetary Policy Committee meets: Repo rate reduces to 4%

- The policy committee met in an emergency meeting to review the current economic outlook and impacts of COVID-19.
- The RBI has reduced the repo rate from 4.4% to 4%. It has reduced the reverse repo rate to 3.35%.
- The RBI also announced that the reduction in policy rate is to be provided as long as the economic growth in the country is to be mitigated.
- The global trade is declining and the world is heading towards recession.

INR-USD Futures and Options Contracts launched by Finance Minister

- The Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitaraman launched the INR-USD Futures and Options contracts in the BSE and NSE platforms.
- They were launched at the GIFT International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat through video conference.
- The contracts have been launched to increase economic activity and employment in the country.
- A significant market share of India has moved to other International financial Centres in the last decade.

RBI cuts Reverse Repo rate to 3.75%, Rs 50,000 crores for LTRO 2.0

- The Government of India released Rs 6,195 crores to 14 states.
- This is the second equated monthly installment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit.
- The grant allocated to the states will act as an additional source of income to the states. The grant was recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.
- The Central Government under the grant allocated Rs 1,276 crores to Kerala, Rs 952 crores to Himachal Pradesh, Rs 638 crores to Punjab, Rs 631 crores to Assam, Rs 491 crore to Andhra Pradesh, Rs 417 crore to West Bengal and Rs 423 crore to Uttarakhand.

Govt releases Rs 6,195 crores of funds to 14 states

- On April 18, 2020, the Ministry of Renewable Energy initiated big action to set up Renewable Manufacturing parks in India.
- The Ministry of Renewable Energy initiated manufacturing hubs to meet domestic and global demands.
- In order to achieve this the central government has directed the states to identify land parcels between 50 acres and 500 acres to set up these parks.
- The states have been directed as land is a state subject.

Govt amends General Financial Rules

- The Government of India amended General Financial Rules to make sure the goods and services that are of value less than Rs 200 crores are procured from domestic firms.

- The GFR 2017 (General Financial Rules) have been amended by the Central Government.
- Under the new amendment, global tenders henceforth will be disallowed in government procurement that are of value Rs 200 crores.
- This was announced in Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Status Paper on Government Debt released

- The Ministry of Finance released a Status Paper on Government Debt 2018-19.
- According to the report, the overall debt of centres and states declined by 68.7% in March 2018 to 68.6% in 2019.
- The Status Paper on Government Debt has been produced by the Ministry of Finance since 2010.
- Current debt of India stands at Rs 1.3 crore crore.

NPCI launched Pai: An Artificial Intelligence Virtual Assistant

- The National Payment Corporation of India launched an Artificial Intelligence based chatbot called Pai. The Chatbot aims to increase financial inclusion
- The PAI can be accessed 24/7. It provides information about NPCI products. The queries can be sent by the users through text or voice.
- In order to send queries, the users shall use websites of RuPay, NPCI and UPI. Currently, PAI is available in English and Hindi languages.
- It is to be launched soon in other languages as well.

22nd Financial Stability and Development Council meeting chaired by Finance Minister

- The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman chaired the Financial Stability and Development Council meeting.
- The meeting reviewed current domestic and global economic situations, financial vulnerabilities issues, liquidity of Micro financial institutions, Non-Banking Financial corporations, regulatory responses, etc.
- The council noted that COVID-19 posed a great threat to the global financial system and the timing of recovery is uncertain.
- The financial stability and development council is an apex body constituted by GoI. The idea was mooted in 2008 by the Raghuram Rajan Committee.

Finance Minister launched instant Aadhaar based E-KYC

- The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman launched instant Aadhaar based E-KYC.
- The facility will be available for PAN applicants that possess valid Aadhaar numbers.
- They should also have a mobile number registered with Aadhaar.
- The process of allotting PAN is paperless and is also free of cost.

testbook MONTHLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BANKING AND FINANCE CAPSULE

APRIL 2020

DOWNLOAD
THE APP



GET IT ON
Google Play



testbook.com

“आपकी सफलता हमारा संकल्प”

SSC | Banking | Railways | Police

MONTHLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BANKING & FINANCE CAPSULE (APRIL 2020)

Banking News

Ordinance passed for 100% Tax Exemption on donations to PM Cares Fund

- On March 31, 2020, the Government of India passed an ordinance to allow 100% exemption on donations made on PM Cares Funds.
- The ordinance has also extended the time limit of direct and indirect tax filings to June 30, 2020.
- The last date for filing Income Tax returns has been extended to June 30, 2020.
- The Aadhaar-PAN linking that has been made mandatory has been extended to June 30, 2020.
- If not linked the GoI had earlier warned about cancelling such PAN registrations.

India seeks 6 billion USD loans from ADB, AIIB

- The World Bank has funded 1 billion USD to India to fight against COVID-19. With the COVID-19 cases increasing further, India seeks 6 billion USD from ADB and AIIB.
- The Indian Economy is to take a major hit with the 21-day lock down.
- The Asian Development Bank has predicted that India's growth rate is to be 4% in the fiscal year 2020-21.
- The bank had earlier predicted that the growth rate is to be 6%. The Fitch Ratings cut India's Growth rate to 2% from its initial forecast of 5.1%.

Life Insurance Council: "Force Majeure" does not apply for COVID-19 cases

- On April 6, 2020, the Life Insurance council announced that the "Force Majeure" clause will apply to COVID-19 deaths.
- Apart from the council, Kolkata Port Trust has also invoked force majeure.
- Force Majeure clause was introduced for unforeseen circumstances. This includes natural disasters, accidents, epidemics, pandemics.
- A force majeure in a contract can now be used to argue that the contract cannot be completed in time due to the spread of COVID-19.

RBI: CPI Inflation to ease from 4.8% to 4.4% in Q2

- On April 9, 2020, the Reserve Bank of India projected that the consumer Price Index is to ease from 4.8% in Q1 to 4.4% in Q2 of the financial year 2020-21.
- The estimated easing of CPI implies that the aggregate demand will weaken further.
- RBI had reduced repo rate and cash reserve ratios during the Monetary Policy Review held in March.
- The RBI further estimates that the CPI is to reduce to 2.7% in Q2 and 2.4% in Q4. With the demand weakening, RBI had injected 50 billion USD of liquidity to the banks to support the economy.

Fishing and Aquaculture exempted from Lock Down

- On April 11, 2020, the Ministry of Home Affairs, exempted fishing and aquaculture industries from Lock Down.
- Earlier, the agricultural activities were exempted.
- The operations such as harvesting, packaging, processing, cold chain, hatcheries, commercial aquaria, movement of shrimp have been exempted from down.
- However, these industries have been directed to follow hygiene practices and social distancing as noted in the earlier orders of the Home Ministry.

ADB assures 2.2 billion USD loan to India

- India had earlier approached Asian Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank for loans to fight against COVID-19.
- With India's request, the ADB has assured a loan of 2.2 billion USD.
- The funds are to be used to help alleviate poverty, and also address economic impacts on micro, medium and small size enterprises.
- Earlier, in march 2020, the bank had announced 6.5 million USD of loan to all developing countries including India.

What is Helicopter Money being suggested by World Experts?

- With the increasing economic crisis, Helicopter Money is a solution being suggested by economic specialists all over the world.
- Helicopter Money was the term framed by an American Economist Milton Friedman.
- Helicopter Money is the monetary policy tool used for Quantitative Easing. It aims to dump money into a struggling economy.
- It aims to dump money into a struggling economy.

RBI launches OBICUS

- On April 16, 2020, the Reserve Bank of India launched OBICUS.
- This is the 49th round of survey by the apex bank for the period January to March.
- The Capacity Utilisation declined to 68.6% from 69.1%.
- OBICUS is Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilization Survey (OBICUS).

RBI cuts Reverse Repo rate to 3.75%, Rs 50,000 crores for LTRO 2.0

- On April 17, 2020, the Reserve Bank of India announced a slew of measures after GoI extended the lock down till May 3, 2020.
- The Apex bank cut the reverse repo rate to 3.75%. It cut the repo rate to 4.4% from 5.15%.
- Also, the central bank has announced Rs 50,000 crore for Long Term Repo Operation (LTRO).
- RBI has eased the Liquidity Coverage Ratio from 100% to 80%.

Renewable Energy Parks to be set up in India

- On April 18, 2020, the Ministry of Renewable Energy initiated big action to set up Renewable Manufacturing parks in India.
- The Ministry of Renewable Energy initiated manufacturing hubs to meet domestic and global demands.
- In order to achieve this the central government has directed the states to identify land parcels between 50 acres and 500 acres to set up these parks.
- The states have been directed as land is a state subject.

CBDT releases relief funds to MSME

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) issued Rs 5,204 crores as relief funds to MSME (Micro Medium and Small Enterprises) sector.
- Around 8.2 lakh small businesses have received Income Tax Refunds so far.
- In the last 10 days, CBDT issued Rs 5,204 crores as Income Tax refunds. The funds were issued to help MSMEs move out of their financial crunches caused due to COVID-19 crisis.
- The lock down has hit the cash flow of MSME sector. The released funds will help to increase the liquidity flow in the sector.

GoI amends FDI policy

- On April 18, 2020, the Government of India amended the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy.
- This has been done to prevent opportunistic acquisitions of Indian companies due to COVID-19 economic crisis.

- The amendments has been made to the Consolidated FDI policy, 2017
- Now, every investor from a neighbouring country is required to invest through the Government route.

Fifteenth Finance Commission to assess impacts of COVID-19

- The Economic Advisory Council of the Fifteenth Finance Commission is to meet on April 23 and 24, 2020.
- The council is to discuss the impacts of COVID-19.
- A two-day meeting is to be held through a video conference. The experts will discuss macro variables over time.
- The agenda of the meet also includes public expenditure to be spent to improve the economy.

Banking Services made Public Utility Services

- The Government of India has declared the banking industry as public utility service till October 21.
- The order has been issued under provisions of Industrial Disputes Act.
- The banking services have been brought under the Industrial Disputes Act in order to prevent strikes by the employees of the banking sector.
- The order has been passed by the labour ministry.

RBI announces Special Liquidity Mutual Funds worth Rs 50,000 crores

- On April 27, 2020, the Reserve Bank of India announced the special liquidity facility for mutual funds of Rs 50,000 crores.
- The Reserve Bank of India is increasing liquidity flow in capital markets as COVID-19 has imposed liquidity strains on mutual funds.
- The Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds (SLF-MF) is to conduct repo operations for 90 days.
- Under the scheme, the banks shall submit their bids on any days between Monday and Friday.

testbook MONTHLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BANKING AND FINANCE CAPSULE

MARCH 2020

DOWNLOAD
THE APP



GET IT ON
Google Play



testbook.com

“आपकी सफलता हमारा संकल्प”

SSC | Banking | Railways | Police

MONTHLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BANKING & FINANCE CAPSULE

(MARCH 2020)

Banking News

Asian Development Bank to invest 100 million USD in NIIF

- On March 30, 2020, the Asian Development Bank announced that it is to invest 100 million USD in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).
- The investment during an economic slowdown is a great boost for the Indian Economy.
- The National Investment and Infrastructure Funds were set up in 2015. The main purpose of the fund is to aid Greenfield and brownfield projects in the country.
- When an entity is to use the benefits of the funds, the Indian Government invests 49% and the rest has to be raised from third party investors 49% and the rest has to be raised from third party investors.

RBI and Finance Ministry to meet to decide on First Half Borrowing Plan

- The Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India is to hold a meeting on March 31, 2020 to discuss the first half borrowing plan for the year plan for the year 2020-21.
- For the first time in Indian history, the meeting is to be held through video conferencing.
- According to the Union Budget 2020-21, the GoI plans to borrow Rs 5.36 lakh crore rupees.
- This is higher than last year borrowing which was Rs 4.99 lakh crore. With this, the gross borrowing is to become Rs 7.8 trillion.
- GoI has planned repayment of loans at Rs 2.35 trillion.

RBI approves Mega Bank Consolidation Plan

- The Reserve Bank of India is to implement a merger plan of 10 state-run banks into 4 larger banks from April 1, 2020.
- The Amalgamation of the bank had been notified by the GoI earlier of March 2020.
- According to the plan, the United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce are to be merged with Punjab National Bank.
- The Syndicate Bank is to be amalgamated with Canara Bank.
- The Allahabad Bank is to be amalgamated with Indian Bank.
- Also, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank are to be amalgamated with Union Bank of India.

Recapitalization of Regional Rural Banks approved by Union Cabinet

- On March 27, 2020, the Reserve Bank of India announced a series of measures to counter the economic slowdown caused due to COVID-19.
- The Central bank advanced its Monetary Policy Committee meet due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This was the 7th Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement of the RBI for the financial year 2019-20.
- The RBI measures introduced is to inject Rs 3.74 lakh crore into the Indian Economy according to the RBI Governor.
- While India has locked down its economic activity, the main objective of RBI is to keep finance flowing.

MoU between Railways and SBI for door step banking

- The Union Cabinet under the chairmanship of PM Modi on March 25, 2020, approved the recapitalization of regional rural banks (RRB) to improve the capital to risk weighted assets ratio.
- The Committee approved the continuation of recapitalization of RRBs.

- In order to achieve this the GoI has provided a minimum regulatory capital for another, 2020-21.
- The recapitalization funds are being allocated to those banks that are unable to maintain a minimum CRAR (Capital to Risk weighted Assets Ratio) of 9%.
- The CRAR for a bank is fixed by RBI.

E-Commerce Giants: Flipkart suspends services, Amazon stops taking new orders

- The E-Commerce Giants Flipkart and Amazon have temporarily stopped their services in India following lock down in the country.
- While Flipkart has suspended its services completely, Amazon is to follow on pending orders alone.
- It will temporarily stop taking new orders. All the grocery deliveries are also to be suspended.
- The Government entities working with essential services are to continue working despite the lock down according to the Guidelines issued by the Home Ministry.

GoI: Invest India Business Immunity Platform launched

- On March 24, 2020, the India's National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency called Invest India launched "The Invest India Business Immunity Platform". The platform is to operate on the website of Invest India.
- The platform is to give real time updates about India's response and actions against CoronaVirus.
- It will provide the latest initiatives of the central and state governments to combat the virus. It is to operate 24/7 under dedicated expertise.
- The Platform has partnered with SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India).
- It also includes details about other essential aspects such as locations of COVID-19 testing, special permissions, etc.

Labour Ministry transfers Cess Funds for the Construction Workers to fight against COVID-19

- On March 24, 2020, the Ministry of Labour and Employment transferred funds to the account of construction workers in the backdrop of the outbreak of COVID-19.
- The Labour Ministry has directed the state governments and Union Territories to transfer Rs 52,000 crores to the accounts of construction workers.
- Around 3.5 crore workers who were registered with the Construction Welfare Boards were benefited under this.
- The step has been taken by the Ministry according to the ruling under Section 60 of Building and Other construction Workers Act, 1996 (BOCW Cess Act).

Finance Minister on COVID-19: Tax Filings extended, ATM, bank charges waived off, Business Rules Eased and much more

- On March 24, 2020, the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman announced several key measures in the view of CoronaVirus Pandemic.
- The minister also announced that the Economic Task Force is to announce an Economic Relief Package to contain the spread of the disease.
- No charges on withdrawal of cash in bank ATMs. Also, the digital charges on trade transactions have been reduced.
- This is being done to ease burden on customers in need of urgent cash and also to avoid overcrowding in bank branches.

Finance Commission: N K Singh Committee for a new Fiscal Consolidation Road Map

- On March 19, 2020, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) announced Swavalamban Express.
- The Train is to visit 11 entrepreneurial cities. This includes Delhi, Jammu, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar and Varanasi. During the period, various workshops and programmes are to be organized.
- The train has been launched to fulfil India's goal of 5 trillion US.
- The train is to cover more than 7,000 km in 15 days. It will connect small enterprises. There is no educational restriction for the journey.
- Any person between the age of 20 and 35 years can participate.

15th Finance Commission to monitor COVID-19 before second report

- On March 19, 2020, the Finance Commission announced that it will monitor the situation of COVID-19 before releasing its second report.
- The Commission is to set up a committee to review fiscal consolidation of the government.
- The commission has recommended grants for the health sector under its report.
- It has recommended the setting up of a State Disaster Risk Management Fund and National Disaster Risk Management Fund.

CoronaVirus: UGC reschedules exams; International airlines banned temporarily

- On March 19, 2020, the University Grants Commission directed all the affiliated colleges and universities to postpone the ongoing examinations.
- The evaluation works have also been directed to be rescheduled.
- The GoI has also ordered other bodies operating under the Ministry of HRD such as AICTE, NIOS, NTA, NCTE and CBSE to reschedule their exams.
- With the number of persons infected with the COVID-19 virus, has increased to 173, the UGC has also instructed the school education boards such as CBSE to postpone the exams.

Agricultural & Processed food products Export Development Authority signs MoU with SFAC

- On March 18, 2020, the Agricultural and Processed food product Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Small Farmers Agriculture-Business Consortium.
- The agreement aims to link the Farmer Producer Organization and farmer cooperatives with the export value chain.
- The SFAC will share the clusters of farmers and grouping distributed in various states with APEDA.
- They will then work together to link up these farmers with the export chain. APEDA will also facilitate certified organic produce identified by SFAC.
- They will also establish an Agri-Business Promotion unit in the North-East.

What is Forex Swap and LTRO suggested by RBI governor to support Liquidity in India?

- The RBI Governor recently stated that the apex bank has several armoury of weapons and it will not hesitate to deploy them.
- Two of the measures suggested by the governor are Forex Swap and LTRO (Long Term Repo Operation).
- This is being suggested as the global economic growth is affected due to the impact of COVID-19 and this in turn is affecting India as well.
- In order to pump currency into the country, or increase liquidity, the Reserve Bank of India has opened a six-month dollar buy-sell dollar swap window.
- The swaps are to be conducted in auction route

CoronaVirus: NMDC reduced iron ore prices by 1.5%

- On March 16, 2020, the National Mineral Development Corporation announced that the prices of iron ore is to be reduced by 1.5%.
- The Corporation is taking such measures predicting decline in iron ore demands due to the threats of Coronavirus.
- The steel prices in India reduced in 2019 due to economic slowdown. The demand for steel in the country reduced greatly and affected the supply chain greatly.
- The prices of iron ore were the lowest in 2019.
- The National Mineral Development Corporation was founded in 1958. The Corporation operates under the Ministry of Steel.

Exposure Limits for Urban Cooperative Banks revised by RBI

- The Union Cabinet recently approved the proposal to set up a major port at Wadhwani in Maharashtra.

- The GoI has sanctioned Rs 65,545 crores for the project.
- The port is being set up to achieve GoI target of developing infrastructure projects of worth 100 lakh crore rupees.
- The port will handle 16,000 to 25,000 TEUs per day.
- A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) is to be in association with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust to be formed.

RBI capped Rs 50,000 as withdrawal limit of YES Bank customers: What is YES BANK CRISIS in news?

- On March 5, 2020, the Reserve Bank of India imposed a month-long moratorium.
- Also, the Apex Bank has imposed withdrawal restrictions of Rs 50,000 to the customers.
- However, in case of medical emergencies and higher education fees, the restriction has been increased to Rs 5 lakhs.
- The Reserve Bank has taken actions as the Yes Bank is currently unable to raise funds that will help against loan losses.

CoronaVirus: OPEC to cut oil production largely since 2008 financial crisis

- On March 5, 2020, the world's largest oil production nations of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) have planned to cut production.
- This is the deepest oil production cut since the 2008 financial crisis.
- The major member of OPEC, Saudi Arabia has planned to cut production by 1.5 million barrels a day from April 2020.
- This is equivalent to holding back 3.6% of global oil supplies. The cuts are being made to avoid oil prices from collapsing.
- OPEC has taken this decision predicting decline in demand of oil due to CoronaVirus and its impact all over the world.

Delhi announced as next Google Cloud Region after Mumbai

- On March 5, 2020, Google announced that it will open its next cloud region of India at Delhi by 2021.
- This is the second cloud region of Google after Mumbai, that was launched in 2017.
- Google owns 22 cloud regions in Asia Pacific.
- Along with Delhi Cloud Region, Google will also open its data centers in Toronto (Canada), Melbourne (Australia) and Doha (Qatar).
- The Ministry had also imposed a fine of Rs 4.5 crores.
- The Google Cloud Services are now available in South America, North America, Asia, Europe and Australia.

testbook MONTHLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BANKING AND FINANCE CAPSULE

FEBRUARY 2020

DOWNLOAD
THE APP



GET IT ON
Google Play



testbook.com

“आपकी सफलता हमारा संकल्प”

SSC | Banking | Railways | Police

MONTHLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BANKING & FINANCE CAPSULE

(February 2020)

Banking News

Gol to increase the reach of banking in the North-East Tea Garden areas.

- On February 27, 2020, the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman announced that the banking in the NorthEast Region is to be increased.
- The minister in a meeting with economists, trade and industry representatives and policy experts announced that the banking in the tea garden regions of the north east is to be increased.
- This is being done to cover greater population of the North East under Financial Inclusion.
- The main challenge in implementing Financial Inclusion schemes in the tea gardens of Assam or any other tea-based region is daily wages.

EASE 3.0 launched by the Finance Minister to enhance Ease of Banking.

- On February 26, 2020, the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman launched Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE 3.0).
- It was launched along with the annual report of EASE 2.0 at a function organized by Indian Banks' Association.
- The main aim of EASE 3.0 is to make public sector banking technology enabled and smart.
- By this the initiative intends to achieve ease of banking for customers.

DPIIT notifies 100% Foreign Direct Investment in Insurance Intermediaries.

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) operating under Ministry of Commerce and Trade has amended the FDI (Foreign Direct Direct Policy) to allow 100% foreign investment for insurance intermediaries.
- This includes insurance companies, third party administrators, insurance broking, loss assessors and surveyors.
- Initially DPIIT had allowed only 49% of FDI in the insurance sector.
- This has now been increased to 100% to increase Ease of doing business in the insurance sector.

What is Counter Cyclical Fiscal Policy of GoI?

- The Government of India has adopted "Counter Cyclical Fiscal Policy" in order to decrease the Economic Slowdown in the country.
- The Economic Chief Advisor Subramanian at the Express Adda event in Mumbai highlighted that Counter Cyclical Fiscal Policy is the only way forward to create additional fiscal headroom.
- The GoI is in the path of achieving 5 trillion USD economy. According to the Economic Survey 2019-20, Wealth Creation is the only way to achieve the target.
- Alongside Wealth Creation, the GoI has planned to adopt more counter-cyclical Fiscal measures to arrest the economic slowdown.

Artificial Intelligence based Chatbot ASKDISHA launched by the Railways

- The Indian Railways recently launched Artificial Intelligence based chatbot called "ASKDISHA".
- The chatbot will interact with the Railway customers in Hindi language resolving their queries.

- The Chatbot was initially launched in 2018 in English. Now, the chatbot has been empowered to converse in Hindi.
- The bot handles more than 3,000 inquiries. There are further plans to launch the chatbot in more languages.

RBI launches 5-year Financial Inclusion Strategy

- The Reserve Bank of India has launched National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (2019-24).
- The main motive of the strategy is to provide access to financial services in an affordable manner.
- The Strategy has been launched after thorough consultation with SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India), PFRDA (Pension fund Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)).
- The strategy was launched based on the recommendations of the Financial Inclusion Advisory Committee that worked in consultation with the above agencies.

US removed “Developing” Tag for India: What are its implications?

- Recently, the United States of America removed the “developing” tag for dozens of countries. India is one amongst them.
- The “Developing” status for a country in the US is associated with US Trade Act, 1974. The act authorized the General System of Preferences (GSP).
- The intention of the system is to help the poor countries develop faster.
- The act was later adopted by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and was extended to other rich countries as well. In WTO, around two-thirds of the countries classify themselves as developing.

RBI Syncs Financial Year with the Fiscal Year

- On February 15, 2020, the board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to sync the Financial year of the bank with the Fiscal Year.
- The Fiscal Year begins in April and ends in March and the Financial year is between July and June.
- The Central Board of Directors of RBI at the 582nd meeting recommended aligning of Fiscal and financial years.
- The alignment would change 8-decade practice of RBI.

Amazon invests 1.5 billion USD for two Data Centres under Data Centre Policy of Telangana

- The E-Commerce Giant Amazon Web Services has planned to invest 1.5 billion USD to set up two data centres in Hyderabad.
- The private firm will be helped by the Telangana Government under its Data Centre Policy Highlights
- The private firm Amazon has set a target of 5 billion USD of global investments for the next four years.
- In 2019, the company opened a 1.8 million feet office in Gachibowli, Hyderabad that can accommodate more than 15,000 employees.

RBI releases bi-monthly policy: Repo rate unchanged

- On February 6, 2020, the Reserve Bank of India released its bi-monthly monetary policy.
- The apex bank has kept the policy repo rate unchanged. It remains at 5.15%.
- The inflation has increased and the unusual price hike in onions has been the main reason behind price rise.
- The Retail Inflation has increased from 4.6% in October to 5.5% in November. It increased further to 7.4% in December 2019. It is the highest since July 2014.

Cabinet approves amendment to bring Cooperative Banks under RBI Regulation

- On February 5, 2020, the Union Cabinet approved to bring regulation of cooperative banks under Reserve Bank of India.
- In order to achieve this, the Cabinet approved amendments to the Banking regulation act.
- According to the amendment, the cooperative banks will now hold the regulatory requirements that have been set for scheduled commercial banks.
- With the amendment, the cooperative banks have to conduct regulatory commands over cooperative banks.

Budget 2020: Economic Development-Commerce, Industries and Infrastructure

- The Union Budget 2020 was presented by the Finance Minister Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The budget was presented under three themes namely Aspirational India, Economic Development and Care Giving.
- Economic Development includes industries, commerce and manufacturing.
- The Finance Minister referred to words Sreni (Guilds) and Seti (Wholesale Merchants) from Harappan Civilization seals.
- This proves that India was rich in trade, commerce and metallurgy even before 4,500 years ago.

Budget 2020: 99,300 crores and 3,000 crores allocated for Education and Skill Development

- The Budget 2020 was presented at the Parliament under three themes. One of the themes is Aspirational India.
- Education and Skills is a Sub theme of Aspirational India.
- The other two sub themes of Aspirational India are Agriculture, Rural Development.
- The other two sub themes of Aspirational India are Agriculture, Rural Development and Irrigation Health, Water and Sanitation.

Fiscal Deficit of GoI touched 132% of full year target

- On January 23, 2020, Ghana announced that the country will replicate the Ujjwala model of LPG connection under the guidance of India (represented by Indian Oil Corporation).
- LPG coverage in Ghana is 23%. Citizens of Ghana spend hours together at petrol stations to refill their cylinders.
- Ghana is to fix the issues around LPG with India's support.
- Ghana inspired by India's bottling plants of LPG is to implement its replica aiming to cover 50% of population in the initial stage.

32nd interaction of PRAGATI held: Rs 24,000 crores worth projects discussed.

- The Controller General of Accounts (CGA) released data on the fiscal deficit of the Government of India.
- According to the report, the fiscal deficit of India touched 132.4% of the full-year target in December, 2019.
- The gap between revenue and expenditure is terms as fiscal deficit. According to the CGA data, the fiscal deficit was 9,31,725 crores of rupees.
- During the 2018-19 budget, the fiscal deficit was 112.4%. GoI is trying to reduce the deficit to 7,03,760 crores by the end of March 2020.

Economic Survey suggests "Assemble In India Model" to create 80 million jobs

- The Economic Survey 2019-20 suggests a new idea of the "Assemble in India" model to create 80 million jobs in the country.
- The model will also help India achieve its 5 trillion USD economy target.
- The report suggests that India should benefit from the China-US trade war situation by increasing export manufacturing.
- It also says that China has been performing well in exports mainly due to large scale labour intensive activities.

testbook MONTHLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BANKING AND FINANCE CAPSULE

JANUARY 2020

DOWNLOAD
THE APP



GET IT ON
Google Play



testbook.com

“आपकी सफलता हमारा संकल्प”

SSC | Banking | Railways | Police

Monthly General Knowledge Banking & Finance Capsule (January 2020)

Economic Survey 2020 tabled in the Parliament by the Finance Minister

- The Economic Survey of the Fiscal Year 2020 has been tabled in both the houses of Parliament.
- The survey highlights economic trends in the country, development over the past 12 months and facilitates better mobilization of resources.
- Theme: Wealth Creation, Promotion of pro-business policies, strengthening of trust in the economy.
- The investments grew between 2008 and 2013. After 2013, the credit (money inflow towards the economy or investments) has been slowing down.

India & World Bank sign Agreement of 210 million USD in agriculture and rural transformation

- The Government of Maharashtra and World Bank signed a 210 million USD agreement to facilitate agriculture value chains, increase market access and build resilient crops.
- The Project is to be implemented in 36 districts of the state of Maharashtra.
- Around 43% of farmers and farm workers are expected to participate in the project.
- The main aim of the agreement is to facilitate small farmers compete agri-business investments and build crops resilient to flood and droughts.

World Gold Council report: RBI ranks 6th in buying gold abroad

- The World Gold Council (WGC) recently released its report, "World Gold Outlook 2020".
- The report says that gold has performed the best since 2010 in 2019.
- In 2019, the gold trade in USD has increased by 18.4% as compared to 2010.
- According to the WGC, RBI (Reserve Bank of India) currently holds 625.2 tonnes of gold.

Amazon to invest 1 billion USD in India; Create 1 million jobs

- On January 17, 2020, one of the world's largest retailer Amazon announced that it has planned to invest 1 billion USD in India and generate 1 million jobs.
- Globally Amazon has increased its employee base four times.
- The retailer has been constantly facing rage of the small and medium enterprises in India for its discounts.
- In order to involve small and medium businesses, a mega summit called the smBhav was organized by Amazon in the capital on January 14, 2020.

MoU between Railways and SBI for door step banking

- On January 14, 2020, the South-Central Railways and SBI signed MoU to implement door step banking in 585 railway stations.
- The MoU will enable direct pick up of cash from all the railway stations included in the MoU.

- Before the agreement, the earnings generated at the railway stations were manually sent to nearest banks that were authorised to collect the deposit on behalf of the Railways.
- This delayed the remittance of cash because of several factors such as availability of man power, holidays, etc.

Second National GST Conference of Central and State Tax Commissioners held

- On January 7, 2020, the second National GST Conference and Central and State Commissioners was held to streamline the Goods and Services Tax.
- The Revenue Secretary of Ministry of Finance Dr Ajay Bhushan Pandey was the Chairman of the conference.
- The Committee will come up with a Standard of Procedure that will become operational by the end of January 2020.
- The Investigation wing of Income Tax Department is to investigate all major cases of fake imports, fraudulent refunds and fake input credits.

Goi releases First Advance Estimates: GDP Growth Rate predicted as 5%

- On January 7, 2020, the CSO (Central Statistics Office) operating under Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation released the advance estimates of GDP number for the fiscal year 2020.
- According to the report, the GDP growth is estimated at 5% for the year 2019-20 as against 6.8% in 2018-19.
- The report says that the deceleration is mainly due to the decline in the growth of manufacturing sector.
- The manufacturing sector grew at the rate of 2% in 2019-20 as compared to 6.9% in 2018-19.

India's Foreign Exchange touches all time high of 457.468 billion USD

- RBI announced that Foreign Exchange Reserves of India has swelled by 2.52 billion USD in the week that ended on December 27, 2019.
- The Central Bank also said that the country's special drawing rights with the IMF (International Monetary Fund) dipped by 2 million USD and the reserve position increased by 58 million USD.
- Currently, India SDR with the IMF is 1.4441 billion USD and the reserve is 3.7 billion USD.
- The composition of the basket is reviewed once in five years. During the review, the weightage of the currency also gets altered.

Goi misses its disinvestment target

- Government of India misses its disinvestment target as the plan to sell Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Air India and Container Corporation of India has not been succeeded.
- The Government had planned to sell 53.3% of BPCL, 31% of Concorp as per latest market prices.
- The Government had set the Disinvestment target of Rs 1.05 trillion for the year 2019-20.
- However, it was only able to extract Rs 17,364 crores.

Transparency International: Assam tops in budget formulation

- According to the survey conducted by Transparency International, Assam tops in terms of budget formulation followed by Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- The states that were ranked lower in terms of budget formulation are Goa, Maharashtra and Punjab.

- The survey was conducted by the organization based on four parameters such as budgetary process, public disclosure, post budget fiscal management and efforts to make budget citizen friendly.
- The international Non-Governmental Organization measures and prevents criminal activities arising due to corruption.

NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Ranking released: Chandauli of UP tops

- On January 29, 2020, the NITI Aayog released the ranking of Aspirational Districts of the country for the month of December 2019.
- The ranking is released every month.
- The Chandauli district of UP topped the list followed by Bolangir of Odisha, YSR (AP) in second and third positions respectively.
- Sahibganj of Jharkhand and Hailakandi of Assam were placed in fourth and fifth places.

National Pension Scheme for traders: Not successful as expected

- The National Pension Scheme for traders, Shopkeepers and Self-Employed persons, also called the Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Yojana was launched in July 2019.
- It aimed at benefiting 3 crore small traders and shopkeepers.
- The Government set a target of 50 lakh enrolment by the end of March 2020. However, only 25,000 persons have applied so far.
- The scheme is being implemented by Ministry of Labour and Employment. In order to enrol in the scheme, GSTIN is required only for those whose turnover for those whose turnover is above Rs 40 lakhs. Also, the participant of the scheme should not be an income tax payer.

Report Card on Smart Cities to be released by June 2020

- The Government of India will release a report card on 100 selected smart cities by June 2020.
- The cities are to be assessed based on public performance index, ease of living and climate in June. The initiative is being undertaken as the Smart City Project completes 5 years in June.
- The cities are also to be assessed based on education, economic ability, safety, housing, development, mobility and health. Of these factors, 35% of weightage is to be given to quality of life, 20% to sustainability, 20% to economic viability and 30% to citizen participation.
- Smart City Mission is being implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development. The mission aims at developing 100 smart cities in the country.
- Till January 2018, 99 cities were selected to be upgraded under the mission. Except West Bengal, all the states have selected at least one city under the mission.

Ghana inspired by India's Ujjwala; India to assist; MoU signed

- On January 23, 2020, Ghana announced that the country will replicate the Ujjwala model of LPG connection under the guidance of India (represented by Indian Oil Corporation).
- LPG coverage in Ghana is 23%. Citizens of Ghana spend hours together at petrol stations to refill their cylinders.
- Ghana is to fix the issues around LPG with India's support.
- Ghana inspired by India's bottling plants of LPG is to implement its replica aiming to cover 50% of population in the initial stage.

32nd interaction of PRAGATI held: Rs 24,000 crores worth projects discussed.

- On 22 January, 2020, PM Modi chaired the 32nd PRAGATI meet.
- Under the Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, the Prime Minister reviewed projects that are being implemented by the union government and their progress.
- The Prime Minister discussed 24 projects that were of worth Rs 24,000 crores at the meet.
- The projects were spread over 9 states namely Telangana, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Kerala.

India's UJALA Programme completes 5 successful years

- On January 5, 2020, Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) and LED Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) marked their fifth anniversary.
- The schemes were implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL). EESL is a joint venture of PSU operating under Ministry of Power.
- Under the SLNP initiative, in five years around 1.03 crore smart LED street lights were installed.
- The initiatives have been highly successful and hence gained world wide recognition. The programmes received South Asia Procurement Innovation Award (SAPLA) in 2017 and CIO 100 award in 2019.

APEDA: Eight States finalise Agricultural Action Plan to boost Exports

- On January 5, 2020, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) announced that eight states namely Maharashtra, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Karnataka finalised their action plan to boost agricultural exports.
- The Agricultural Export Policy was introduced in December 2018. The policy aimed at doubling agricultural exports from 30 billion USD to 60 billion USD to 60 billion USD by 2022.
- The APEDA nodal officers visited the product clusters at various cities in order to check if the policy implementation and their plan is effective.
- The product clusters selected were at Jalandhar (Potato), Sangli (Grapes), Salem (Poultry products), Theni (Banana), Chittoor (Mango) and several other places.

“Cyber Safe Initiative” launched by Maharashtra Government

- On January 3, 2020, Cyber Safe Initiative was launched by Maharashtra Government.
- The initiative was launched commemorating the birth anniversary of Indian Social Reformer Savitribai Phule. Savitribai Phule was the first female teacher of India.
- Indian Social Reformer Savitribai Phule. Savitribai Phule was the first female teacher of India.
- It will also create awareness against crimes such as bank frauds, child pornography, photo shuffling, online gaming, cyber defamation information and false information sites.

171 Hospitals de-empanelled under Ayushman Bharat Scheme

- On January 3, 2020, around 171 hospitals were de-empanelled by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for committing fraud.
- The Ministry had also imposed a fine of Rs 4.5 crores.
- The FIRs were lodged on 6 hospitals in Uttarakhand and Jharkhand states.

- The Anti-Fraud Unit detected that the private hospitals were fraudulently performing these government reserved procedures.

2636 EV Charging Stations sanctioned under Phase II FAME India

- The Department of Heavy Industries operating under Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises has sanctioned 2636 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations under FAME India scheme Phase II.
- The stations are to be set in 62 cities in 24 states and Union Territories.
- The aim of the move is to make sure at least one Electric Vehicle charging station is available in a grid of 4 km × 4km area in the selected cities.
- Out of the 2636 charging stations to be constructed, 1633 will be fast charging stations and 1003 are to be slow charging stations.

PM Modi to release third instalment of Kisan Samman Nidhi

- PM Modi is to release the fourth instalment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Yojana in Tumakuru, Karnataka. The Prime Minister will also confer "Krishi Karmany award to three fishermen and 28 progressive farmers from various states.
- The scheme was first introduced in Telangana as "Rythu Bandhu" scheme. Under the scheme, a certain amount is given to eligible farmers.
- Eventually, the scheme was accoladed for its huge success all over the world including World Bank.
- Upon the success of the Rythu Bandhu scheme, the central government launched Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Yojana all over the country in 2018.

Amazon partnering with Eastern Railways sets up pick-up kiosk in Kolkata after Mumbai

- After Mumbai, the Amazon India private e-commerce firm has set up its second pick up kiosk in Kolkata's Sealdah Railway Station.
- The pick-up kiosk has been set up in partnership with the Eastern Railways. It is to be noted that in 2019, the E-Commerce firm had set up pickup kiosk in four railway stations of Mumbai.
- In October 2019, Amazon India tied up with the Indian Railways to transport customer packages through Railways on the routes of Mumbai to New Delhi, New Delhi to Kolkata.
- This tie up with the Amazon India, will help Indian Railways meet its freight and passenger earning targets.

CII celebrates 125 years; Tamil Nadu CM launches new scheme at the event

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is celebrating its 125th birth anniversary in the year 2020.
- In order to commemorate its anniversary, the organization has been hosting several events in different parts of India under the theme.
- The CII is India's premier business association that works to sustain an environment that is conducive towards the economic growth of the country.
- The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister on 30th January 2020, announced "Direct CTO (Consent To Operate) Scheme for Green Industries" to mark the 125th birth anniversary of CII. The scheme also helps to improve Ease of Doing Business.

MGNREGA scheme faces funds shortage

- The MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Employment Act) scheme released its financial statement recently.
- According to the statement, almost 96% of the money has already been spent.
- Only 2,500 crores of rupees is left to sustain the scheme for the next two months.
- According to the financial statement of the scheme, 15 states are in red meaning, there is fund depletion or fund unavailability.

RBI launches MANI application for visually challenged

- On January 01, 2020, the Reserve Bank of India launched the MANI application for visually challenged persons to identify new currency notes that were launched after demonetization. MANI is a Mobile Aided Note Identifier.
- MANI application scans currency notes using a camera and gives audio output in Hindi and English.
- The Government of India launched several currency notes under the “Mahatma Gandhi series”.
- There were challenges faced by visually challenged in identifying these notes.

Finance Minister announces 102 lakh crore rupees project

- On December 31, 2019, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman announced 102 lakh crore worth projects to be implemented in the next 5 years.
- During the announcement, she also released the report of the Task Force on National Infrastructure Pipeline for 2019-2025.
- The infrastructure projects are to be introduced in railways, power, urban, irrigation, health and education.
- These projects will help India achieve its goal of 5 trillion-dollar economy by 2025. Currently, the GDP of India is 2.72 trillion USD and is growing at the rate of 6.81%.