

2020



drishti

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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BusinessLine



## **1. SPICe+ Web Form**

### **Why in News?**

As part of the Government of India's Ease of Doing Business (EODB) initiatives, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has notified a new Web Form 'SPICe+' replacing the existing SPICe form.

- SPICe was launched in 2016 and is a single form for multiple services for incorporation of a company.

### **Key Points**

- SPICe+ would be an integrated Web Form that aims to save time and cost for Starting a Business in India and would be applicable for all new company incorporations.
- It was launched with the view of improving the ease of doing business in India.
  - This will lead to improvement in India's ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business.
- It would offer 10 services by **3 Central Government Ministries & Departments and One State Government (Maharashtra)**
  - Ministry of Corporate Affairs
  - Ministry of Labour
  - Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance
- SPICe+ would have two parts viz.:
  - **Part A** for name reservation for new companies and
  - **Part B** offers a bouquet of services like incorporation, DIN (Director Identification Number) allotment, mandatory issue of PAN (Permanent Account Number) etc.
- The new web form would facilitate onscreen filing and real-time data validation for the seamless incorporation of companies.
- Registration for Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and Employees' state Insurance Corporation (ESIC) shall be mandatory for all new companies to be incorporated through SPICe+.
- Registration for Profession Tax shall also be mandatory for all new companies to be incorporated in the State of Maharashtra through SPICe+.

## **2. Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Conference 2020**

### **Why in News?**

Recently, the 11th National Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Conference was held in New Delhi.

- It has been organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- The main aim of the conference is to highlight technology-led farming and youth entrepreneurship through agriculture.

- **Theme:** Empowering Youth for Technology Led Farming.

### Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)

- Krsihi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) are agricultural extension centres created by ICAR (Indian Council for Agricultural Research) and its affiliated institutions at district level.
- KVK is an integral part of the **National Agricultural Research System (NARS)**.
  - The first KVK was established in 1974 at **Puducherry**.
  - Currently around 645 KVKs have been established
- The **mandate** of KVK is technology assessment and demonstration for its application and capacity development.
- Aims:
  - Assessment of location specific technology modules in agriculture and allied enterprises, through technology assessment, refinement and demonstrations.
  - Produce quality technological products (seed, planting material, bio-agents, livestock) and make it available to farmers.
- The KVK scheme is **100% financed by the Government of India**
- The KVKs are sanctioned to Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutes, related Government Departments and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) working in Agriculture.
- KVKs act as a bridge between the laboratories and farmland.
  - According to the Government, these are crucial to fulfilling the target of **doubling farmers' income by 2022**.

### Developments in Agriculture

- R&D has been done in the Agriculture sector.
  - **Superior crop varieties** have been released. (Eg;-Wheat: HD 4728 (Pusa Malvi))
  - 171 mobile apps developed for farmers. (Eg:-**Kisan Suvidha**)
  - More than three lakh **Common Service Centres (CSCs)** opened.
  - **eNAM portal** has been created so that the farmer gets a better price for his produce.

### Indian Council of Agricultural Research

- It is an autonomous organisation under the **Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- It was established in **1929** and was formerly known as the Imperial **Council of Agricultural Research**.

- Headquarter: **New Delhi.**
- It is the apex body for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.

### **3. 1st National Conference on Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience 2020**

#### **Why in News?**

Minister of State for Home Affairs, presided over the valedictory session of the 1<sup>st</sup> 'National Conference on Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (CDRR&R) – 2020

#### **Key Points:**

- The conference focussed on enhancing human capacity in terms of better understanding about coastal disaster risks.
- The aim is to implement Prime Minister's 10-point agenda and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, for reducing the risk and enhancing the resilience amongst the affected stakeholders.
- The conference explored and debated about the most recent advances in the discipline, to enhance the understanding of the issues and solutions on various facets for coastal disaster risk reduction and resilience.
- It also emphasised on dissemination of information related to national and local strategies for coastal disaster risk reduction and resilience as well as to develop a network mode roadmap for addressing the gaps by engaging with the institutions, researchers and experts.

#### **Sendai Framework:**

- It was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held from March 14 to 18, 2015 in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan.
- It is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.

### **4. Renewable Energy Management Centres**

#### **Why in News?**

Recently, the Northern Region Renewable Energy Management Centre (NR-REMC) was inaugurated at a function in New Delhi.

#### **Key Points:**

- They are equipped with Artificial Intelligence based Renewable Energy (RE) forecasting and scheduling tools.

- They provide greater visualization and enhanced situational awareness to the grid operators
- Renewal energy supply can be seasonal (wind) or limited to some hours in the day (solar). It disturbs the power grid, used to seamless supply of thermal power.
- The Government of India's target of 175 GW Renewable Energy (RE) capacity by 2022 driving accelerated RE penetration poses challenges to the grid management due to intermittent and variable nature of RE generation.
- The Government of India had approved the implementation of the REMCs as a Central Scheme and had mandated POWERGRID, a **Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** under the Ministry of Power as an Implementing Agency.
- Presently, 55 GW of Renewable (Solar and Wind) is being monitored through the eleven REMCs, located in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan.

## 5. National Technical Textile Mission

### Why in News?

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the establishment of a National Technical Textiles Mission to help India position itself as a “global leader” in technical textiles.

### Key Points

- The Cabinet has approved a total outlay of Rs 1,480 crore for the project, which will be implemented over four years.
- This includes increasing exports of these “futuristic” segments of textiles by over 40 per cent in the next two years.
- Around Rs 1,000 crore of the outlay is earmarked for “fundamental” research aimed at “path breaking” technological products in the fibres space, as well as application-based research in segments like agro-textiles, medical textiles and mobile textiles.

### Aims:

- The Mission aims to promote research, export and skill development in this sector with four components to achieve these goals.
- The Mission will aim at an average growth rate of 15-20 per cent per annum, taking the level of the domestic market size to \$40-50 billion by the year 2024.
- The government aims to enhance exports of technical textiles to Rs 20,000 crore by 2021-22 from approximately Rs 14,000 crore currently.
- It also aims at improving education, skill development and adequacy of human resources in the country

### Technical Textiles:

- Technical textiles are products used for functional purposes.
- They have various applications, ranging from:  
agriculture, roads, railway tracks, sportswear and health on the one end, to  
bullet-proof and fire-proof jackets, high-altitude combat gear and space  
applications

### 6. Project Monitoring Group (PMG)

- It is an institutional mechanism of the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce.**
- It works under the administrative control of the Prime Minister's Office.
- It expedites resolution of issues and removal of regulatory bottlenecks in projects, with investments upward of ₹ 500 crores in India.
- It aims to create a **one-stop facilitation destination for investors at all stages** of the investment process, including issue resolution.
- PMG seeks to enlist the unresolved project issues in respect of **all mid and large-sized Public, Private and 'Public-Private Partnership' (PPP) Projects.**
- **The issues taken up by PMG are both at Union and State-Level.**
- Invest India provides implementational support to PMG.

### Invest India

- Invest India is the **official** Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India and acts as the **first point of reference for investors** in India.
- It is set up as a **non-profit** venture under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industries.

### 7. Measure of Poverty in India

- Poverty is the condition in which an individual or household lacks the financial resources to afford a basic minimum standard of living.
  - The **World Bank** defines poverty as pronounced deprivation in well-being and comprises many dimensions.
  - It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity.
- It can be measured in terms of the **number of people living below the poverty line.**
  - Poverty line is the expenditure incurred to obtain the goods in a **Poverty Line Basket (PLB).**
  - PLB comprises goods and services considered **essential to a basic minimum standard of living:**
    - Food



- Clothing
- Rent
- Conveyance
- Entertainment
- Poverty estimation is carried out by NITI Aayog using the data captured by the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)**.
- Importance of Poverty Estimation:
  - Central schemes such as Antyodaya Anna Yojana and Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana use the definition of poverty line to identify beneficiaries.
  - The centre allocates funds to various social sector schemes on the basis of poverty estimates.
- Causes of poverty in India:
  - Population explosion
  - Low agricultural productivity
  - Inefficient resource utilisation
  - Low rate of economic development
  - Unemployment
  - Colonial exploitation

### **Official Committees to Estimate Poverty**

1. Planning Commission Working Group of (1962)
2. V. N. Dandekar and N. Rath (1971)
  - a. First systematic assessment of poverty in India, based on National Sample Survey (NSS) data.
  - b. Shifted the focus of calculating poverty by taking into account the consumption expenditure.
  - c. By making **2250 calories per day** in both rural and urban areas as the threshold for the poverty line.
3. Y. K. Alagh Committee (1979)
  - a. Reconstructed a poverty line for rural and urban areas on the basis of **nutritional requirements** and related **consumption expenditure**.
4. D. T. Lakdawala Committee (1993)
  - a. Recommended that **consumption expenditure** should be calculated based on **calorie consumption** (as earlier).
  - b. **State specific poverty lines** should be constructed and these should be updated using the **Consumer Price Index-Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)** and **Consumer Price Index- Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL)** in urban and rural areas, respectively.
  - c. The Committee **excluded health and education expenditure** from the consumption basket it proposed, as it assumed that the state will provide these facilities.

5. Suresh Tendulkar Committee (2009)
  - a. Shifted food consumption expenditure to **nutritional outcomes**.
    - i. The food consumption calculation was earlier based on the minimum number of calories recommended by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** for a household of **five members**.
  - b. The committee recommended a **uniform poverty line basket** for rural and urban areas of the whole country.
  - c. Recommended incorporation of private expenditure on health and education while estimating poverty.
  - d. As per the Tendulkar Committee 21.9% of people in India live below the poverty line.
6. C. Rangarajan Committee (2014)
  - a. The committee was constituted to:
    - i. Review the **Tendulkar Committee methodology** for estimating poverty and international poverty estimation methods.
    - ii. Recommend how estimates of poverty can be linked to eligibility and entitlements for the various schemes of the Government of India.
  - b. The Committee recommended that the poverty line should be based on:
    - i. Normative level of adequate nutrition covering **ideal and desirable levels of nutrition**.
    - ii. Nonfood expenses based on general behavior of consumers.

### Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- MPI is a more comprehensive measure of poverty because it includes components that capture the standard of living more effectively.
- It is developed by the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)** and the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.
- The Index calculated **incidence and intensity of poverty** on deprivations across **ten indicators**. Poverty is measured in terms of deprivation in **at least a third of these indicators**.
  - It focuses on outcomes rather than expenditure, thus the presence of an undernourished person in the household will result in it being classified as poor, regardless of the expenditure on nutritious food.