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News Analysis (06 Apr, 2019)

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## Technical Analysis of FAME II

The **NITI Aayog** and the **Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)** released a report on opportunities for the automobile sector and government under the **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles II (FAME II) scheme**.

The technical report titled '**India's Electric Mobility Transformation: Progress to Date and Future Opportunities**', quantifies the direct oil and carbon savings and it also quantifies the catalytic effect that FAME II and **other measures could have on the overall Electric Vehicle(EV) market**.

## Key Highlights

- If FAME II and **other measures are successful**, India could realize EV sales penetration of 30% of private cars, 70% of commercial cars, 40% of buses and 80% of two and three-wheelers by 2030.
- Effects of FAME II will go beyond the vehicles that are eligible under the FAME II.
- There is **considerable energy and CO<sub>2</sub> savings** associated with the vehicles and buses covered by FAME II over their lifetime.
  - Vehicles eligible under FAME II scheme can cumulatively save 5.4 million tonnes of oil equivalent over their lifetime worth Rs 17.2 thousand crores.
- In order to capture the potential opportunity in 2030, **batteries must remain a key focal point** as the key cost driver of EVs.

## Recommendations

India needs auto industry's **active participation to ease electric mobility transition**. The auto and battery industries could collaborate to enhance customer awareness, promote domestic manufacturing, promote new business models, conduct R&D for EVs and components, consider new business models to promote EVs.

- Government should focus on a phased manufacturing plan to promote EVs,

**provide fiscal and non-fiscal incentives** for phased manufacturing of EVs and batteries.

- Different government departments can consider a bouquet of potential policies, such as congestion pricing, low emission/exclusion zones, parking policies, etc. to drive adoption of EVs.

## Way Forward

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India's electric vehicle market is poised for growth with a blend of policies, such as FAME II, and the automotive industry's willingness to provide new mobility solutions to the citizens of the country. Such a transformation will create enormous economic, social and environmental benefits for the citizens of India.

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## Habrocestum Longispinum

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Recently **arachnologists (those who study spiders and other arachnids)** have spotted a group of spiders in Illithodu forests of **Ernakulam district of Kerala**.

This is relevant because these spiders have **been spotted in India for the first time** and they mostly occur in Eurasia and Africa.

### Arachnids

- Arachnids include a **diverse group of invertebrates: spiders, scorpions, ticks, mites**, etc. There are over 100,000 species of arachnids.
- The name Arachnida derives from the **Greek aráchnē, which means spider**. The vast majority of arachnids are spiders.
- Most arachnids are **carnivorous, typically preying on insects, and terrestrial, living on land**. They lack both wings and antennae.
- Their mouthparts often have narrow openings, which restricts them to **eating liquefied prey**.
- They help in **keeping insect populations under control**.
- Habrocestum Longispinum (after Latin 'longe' meaning long and 'spinae' for spine) belong to the genus Habrocestum that has been recorded mostly in Eurasia and Africa.
- It can be said that the species is not only new to India, but also science.
- The discovery lends support to the continental drift theory that suggests that the world's continents were one large, contiguous landmass where these creatures thrived many millions of years ago.

## Continental Drift Theory

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- Set forth in **1912 by Alfred Wegener**, a geophysicist and meteorologist, continental drift theory **explains the present position of continents on the earth's surface.**
- Wegner assumed existence of the earth's three layers- outer layers of 'Sial', intermediate layer of 'Sima' and lower layer of 'Nife'.
  - **Sial: Silicon + Aluminium,**
  - **Sima: Silicon + Magnesium**
  - **Nife: Nickel + Iron**
- Continents or the sialic masses were assumed to be floating on sima without any resistance.
- The united continent landmass was named as **Pangaea** and the water body surrounding it was **named Panthalassa.**
- Owing to the gravitational force and tidal force of both sun and moon, the Pangaea began to drift apart in westward and equatorward directions and finally broke into **Angaraland (northern part) and Gondwanaland (southern part).**
- **Water body named Tethys Sea** filled up the intervening space between the two landmasses, while drifting .
- The jigsaw fit of the African and South American coasts, similarity in the fossils, species (**Astrobatrachus Kurichiyana Frog**) and vegetation remains on South Africa, Australia, India and Africa and evidences of carboniferous glaciation of Brazil, Falkland, Peninsular India and Antarctica were arguments given in favor of the theory.
- Although Wegener's "**continental drift**" theory was **discarded**, it did introduce the **idea of moving continents to geoscience.**

## Traditional New Year

The President of India has greeted the people on the eve of Ugadi, Gudi Padwa, Cheti Chand, Navreh and Sajibu Cheiraoba.

These festivals mark the **beginning of the traditional New Year** in India.

## Gudi Padwa and Ugadi

- Ugadi and Gudi Padwa are the festivals, to celebrate the New Year, in the **month of Chaitra Shukla Pratipada** as per the Hindu Lunar Calendar, and is celebrated by the people in the Deccan region including **Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.**
- The common practice in the celebrations of both the festivals is the festive food that is prepared with a mix of sweet and bitter.
  - A famous concoction served is jaggery (sweet) and neem (bitter), called bevubella in South, signifying that life brings both happiness and sorrows.
- **Gudi**, which means a doll is prepared in Maharashtrian homes. A bamboo stick is

adorned with green or red brocade to make the gudi. This gudi is **placed prominently in the house** or outside a window/ door for all to see.

- For **Ugadi**, doors in homes are adorned with **mango leaf decorations** called **toranalu or Torana** in Kannada.

## Cheti Chand

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- **Sindhis celebrate the new year as Cheti Chand.** Chaitra month is called 'Chet' in Sindhi.
- The day **commemorates the birth anniversary of Ishta Deva Uderolal, Jhulelal**, the patron saint of Sindhis and is celebrated with great pompous and gaiety.

## Navreh

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- It is the lunar New Year that is **celebrated in Kashmir**. It is the **Sanskrit word 'Nav Varsha'** from where the word '**Navreh**' has been derived.
- It actually falls on the very **first day of the Chaitra Navratras**.
- On this day, Kashmiri Pandits deliberately, first of all, look at a bowl of rice, considered as a symbol of riches and fertility. A special 'Thali' is also prepared.

## Sajibu Cheiraoba

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- It is the great ritual **festival of Meiteis** (an ethnic group in Manipur) which is observed on the first day of Manipur lunar month Shajibu, which falls in the month of April every year.
- On the day of the festival, people arrange a **joint family feast** in which **traditional cuisines** are offered to **local deities** at the **entrance gates of the houses**.

## Chaitra Shukla Pratipada

- It is the **first day during the waxing phase of moon in the Chaitra Month**.
- It marks the beginning of the **New Year of Vikram Samvat** or better known as Vedic [Hindu] Calendar.
- This Hindu new year is known by different names in India such as Gudi Padwa in Maharashtra, Ugadi in Telugu.
- The famous Vikram Samvat is based on the day when the emperor Vikramaditya defeated Sakas and invaded Ujjain. He, then, called for a new era.

Under his supervision, astronomers formed **new calendar based on luni-solar system** that is still followed in the Northern regions of India.

## Meities

- The Meiteis, one of the most **eminent ethnic groups of Manipur** hail from the

Manipur Valley and are an industrious lot.

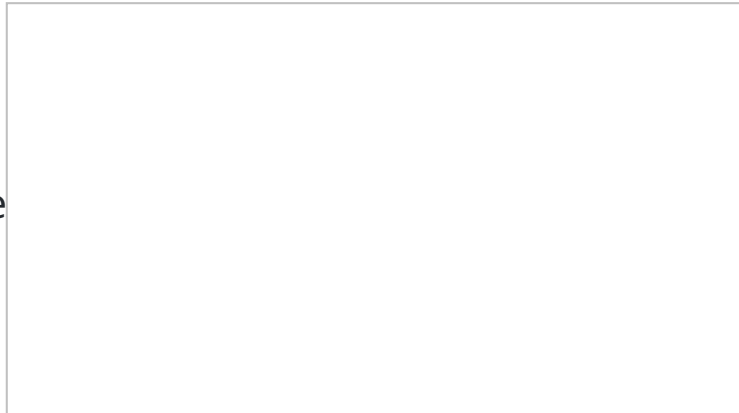
- They speak **Tibeto-Burman language** and most of the people belonging to the group, follow Hindu customs.

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## Important Facts For Prelims (6th April 2019)

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Konyak Dance



- Around **4,700 Konyak Naga women**, in their colourful traditional attire came together on April 5, 2019, in an **attempt to set a Guinness World Record** for the “Largest Traditional Konyak Dance”.
  - In their attempt, Konyak people danced to the beats of traditional instruments and sang a ceremonial song for five minutes and one second.
  - The official declaration on the record to be announced by the Guinness authorities is expected within the five days.
  - **Guinness World Records is a global brand**, with offices in London, New York, China, Japan and UAE and with brand ambassadors on the ground around the world.
- The **programme** was organised at Mon (Nagaland) **during the Aoleang Monyu festival** of the Konyak tribe which is celebrated every year in the first week of April **to welcome the spring**.
- **Konyak** is one of the 16 **Naga tribes** and people of this community live mainly in the **Mon district** of Nagaland.

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## New World Bank President

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- **David Malpass**, a top U.S. Treasury official in Trump administration has been unanimously selected as the **new President of the World Bank**.
- He will be the **13th President** and will start his five year term from April 9, 2019.
- He will succeed Jim Yong-kim, who stepped down on February 1, 2019. Kristalina Georgieva, chief executive officer of the bank, is acting as the interim President.
- **Since the bank’s creation, all of its Presidents have been from America.**

- The World Bank **President** is Chair of Boards of Directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA).
- The **President is also ex officio Chair of Boards of Directors** of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the Administrative Council of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

## Asteroid Ryugu

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- The **Japan's space agency, JAXA** has announced that its **Hayabusa 2 spacecraft** released an explosive onto the **asteroid Ryugu to make a crater on its surface** and collect underground samples to find possible clues to the origin of the solar system.
- Earlier, JAXA had announced that a group of scientists participating in the Hayabusa 2 mission had **detected hydroxyl-bearing minerals on the asteroid** by analyzing near-infrared spectrometer readings by the spacecraft.

This could help explain where the Earth's water came from.

## Chytridiomycosis Disease

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- Deadliest disease of all times till now has wiped out **90 species of frogs and toads**.
- Chytridiomycosis is caused by a fungus—***Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis***—that attacks the skin of frogs, toads and other amphibians.
  - As the creatures use their **skin to breathe and regulate their bodies' water levels**, the damage caused by the disease eventually leads to **heart failure and death**.
  - It spreads **through contact and water**.
- The rapid global spread of the fungus is due to a **lack of animal trade rules and airport surveillance**, which allows wildlife to be imported without examination.
  - The **fungus originated in Asia** and gradually became pandemic in Latin America and Australia owing to trade (import and export of amphibians as pets) with Asia.
  - This can be termed as a **negative externality of Globalisation on the wildlife**.
- Moreover, a **genetic mutation of the fungus** may have made it more dangerous.
- **Other factors leading to amphibians decline** are:
  - Climate change,
  - Habitat destruction,
  - Draining of wetlands and
  - Changes to terrestrial ecosystems.
- **Importance of Amphibians:**

Amphibians play a major role in **maintaining aquatic environmental quality**. They also feed on mosquitoes, which carry human diseases such as malaria and

the Zika virus.

- Governments and other agencies must focus on **regulation** and need to start taking **biosecurity and the illegal wildlife trade far more seriously** to prevent the spread of diseases.
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