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WEF India Economic Summit

The **World Economic Forum's 33rd India Economic Summit** took place in New Delhi from 3rd - 4th October 2019.

- Hosted in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the **theme** of the Summit was: **'Innovating for India: Strengthening South Asia, Impacting the World'**.
- Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina co-chaired the Summit with Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat.
- The India Economic Summit came to a close with more than 800 participants meeting from across the region and around the world.

Key Highlights

- **Challenge of Global Inequality:** There is a growing inequality in terms of wealth and income--both within countries and across countries.
- The **challenge of Gender Equality** - both in the region and across the globe.
- **Vision For Agriculture:** More than 70 global and regional leaders committed to **supporting investments in integrated food value chains** throughout the country.
- The Co-chairs called for **improved regional cooperation in South Asia and Southeast Asia**.
- Bilateral cooperation and innovation is crucial for **'shared prosperity'**.
Innovation can lift-up the region to become a 'great area' for development of cutting-edge technology.

Aspects Related to India

- The **India Social Entrepreneurs of the Year 2019** are **Shanti Raghavan & Dipesh Sutariya of EnAble India**.
EnAble India changed the mindsets of 729 businesses and built frameworks for inclusion in universities and government agencies for the employment of persons with disabilities in formal and informal sectors across India.
- **Foreign Policy Aspect:** In a **veiled reference to Pakistan**, Union Minister for External Affairs said that the **entire neighbourhood, minus one**, has been a fairly good story for regional cooperation.
- **Economic Aspect:** India expressed cautious optimism about a **potential free trade agreement between India and the United States**.
- **Access to Health: Drones will soon deliver life-saving medical supplies** and vaccines to rural communities in **Telangana**.
The government will begin a drone delivery programme built on a World Economic Forum and Apollo Hospital Group framework.
- **Sanitation:** To support Prime Minister's initiative of ending open defecation, the Forum's Young Global Leaders community **will mobilize more than \$3.5 million in resources to finance the urban sanitation ecosystem** in 10 Indian cities.
- **Smart Cities:** The Smart Cities Mission India joined the G20 Smart City Alliance, chaired by the World Economic Forum, to establish universal norms and guidelines for safe and responsible implementation of smart city technology.
- **E-Mobility:** People in Punjab will soon be driving down a 100km electric vehicle corridor, which is part of a sustainable pilot project with the World Economic Forum's Moving India initiative.
- **Clean fuel:** Clean India will fly 1 million airline passengers between Delhi and Mumbai by 2030 as the SpiceJet and others have joined the Forum's Clean Skies for Tomorrow Project, promoting the use of biofuels and blended fuels through public-private partnership.

World Economic Forum

- It was **established in 1971** as a **not-for-profit foundation** and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is the **International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation**.
- It engages the foremost political, business, cultural and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

Confederation of Indian Industry

- CII is a **non-government, not-for-profit**, industry-led and industry-managed organization, playing a proactive role in India's development process.

- **Founded in 1895**, it has around 9000 members, from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 300,000 enterprises from around 276 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.
- It works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering industry, Government, and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

Source: TH

Youth Co:Lab

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and the **United Nations Development Programme** (UNDP) India has launched '**Youth Co:Lab**' which aims at **accelerating social entrepreneurship and innovation in young India**.

- It was **co-created in 2017 by UNDP and the Citi Foundation** and is operational in 25 countries across the Asia Pacific region.
- The initiative aims to create **an enabling ecosystem to promote youth leadership, innovation, and social entrepreneurship**.
- '**Youth Co:Lab**' in India:
 - **For Promoting Entrepreneurship:** The initiative will convene a series of youth dialogues across several cities such as New Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Mumbai to promote entrepreneurship across India.
 - **Focus on Youth and SDGs:** AIM and UNDP are collaborating to spread awareness about different issues pertaining to youth, the future of work and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**.
 - **Promoting Innovation:** The initiative will convene **social innovation challenges** at the national and sub-national level, which will invite young people in the age group of 18-29 years and start-ups to showcase their proposed ideas and solutions to tackle some of the region's biggest social challenges.
They will also get the opportunity to pitch their ideas at the UNDP's regional centre in 2020.

Atal Innovation Mission

- AIM including Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) is **Government of India's endeavour** to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Its objective is to serve as a platform for the promotion of world-class innovation hubs, grand challenges, start-up businesses and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology driven areas.

NITI Aayog

- The National Institution for Transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on **1st January 2015**.
- The Government of India constituted the NITI Aayog to **replace the Planning Commission instituted in 1950**.
- It is the premier policy '**Think Tank**' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs.
- While designing strategic and long term policies and programmes for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant technical advice to the Centre and States.
- The Governing Council of NITI, with the **Prime Minister as its Chairman**, comprises Chief Ministers of all States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories (UTs).

United Nations Development Programme India

- UNDP works in almost 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion, while protecting the planet.
- UNDP has worked in India since 1951 in almost all areas of human development, from systems and institutional strengthening to inclusive growth and sustainable livelihoods.
- **UNDP India's country programme for 2018-2022** has three major focus areas:
 - Inclusive growth
 - Environment and energy
 - Strengthening systems and institutions
- UNDP Country Office is **located in New Delhi**.

Source: PIB

Electric Vehicle Charging Guidelines and Specifications

The Government of India has approved **amendments in Electric Vehicle (EV) charging guidelines and specifications**.

- The revised guidelines include:
 - A phase-wise installation of charging infrastructure :
 - The **first** phase (1-3 years) : All **megacities and connected expressways** with a population of **4 million-plus as per census 2011**.
 - The **second** phase (3-5 years) : **State capitals, UT headquarters**.
 - At least **one charging station** to be set up in a **grid of 3 km X 3 km** in the cities
 - **One charging station** at **every 25 km** on **both sides of highways/roads**.
 - **Fast charging station** at **every 100 kms (one on each side of the highways)**.
 - **Private charging at residences/offices** to be managed by **DISCOMs**.
 - The Public Charging Stations (PCS) to be a **de-licensed activity**, implying that any individual/entity is free to set up public charging stations.
 - **Freedom to PCS owners to install the chargers** (various types and numbers) as per the market requirement.
 - The tariffs to be charged in accordance with the **tariff policy issued under Electricity Act 2003**.
 - **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** will be the **Central Nodal Agency**, while State Nodal Agency for the respective states to be set up.
- The revised policy is expected to help for **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles** in India.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)

- The BEE is a **statutory body** under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- It assists in **developing policies and strategies** with the primary objective of **reducing the energy intensity** of the Indian economy.
- BEE coordinates with designated consumers, designated agencies, and other organizations to identify and utilize the existing resources and infrastructure, in performing the functions assigned to it under the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001**.

Source: PIB

India's First e-Waste Clinic

India's first e-waste clinic for **segregating, processing and disposal** of waste from household and commercial units will soon be set-up in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) for its establishment.
- The clinic is a three-month pilot project. If it would be a success, then the same would be replicated throughout the country.

- Electronic waste will either be collected **door-to-door** or could be deposited directly at the clinic by individuals.
- The CPCB will provide **technical support** at the unit and the collected **hazardous waste** will then be sent to **Bengaluru** for **recycling**.
This would ensure **scientific handling and disposal** of electronic waste generated from households and commercial establishments.
- The clinic is being conceived in compliance with the **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016**. These rules also focus on **segregation of waste at source** and charge user fees for collection, disposal, and processing from the bulk generator.
- In the absence of a safe disposal mechanism, currently, the electronic waste which includes defunct and useless electrical or electronic devices is being discarded along with other household waste. Therefore, there was a dire need for such a clinic that could efficiently and safely segregate and dispose off the hazardous waste.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

- It is a **statutory organization** that was constituted in September 1974 under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**.
- CPCB was entrusted with the powers and functions under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.
- Principal **functions** of the CPCB are:
 - to **promote cleanliness** of streams and wells in different areas of the States through prevention, control, and abatement of **water** pollution, and
 - to **improve the quality of air** and to prevent, control or abate air pollution in the country.
- It also provides **technical services** to the Ministry of Environment and Forests regarding the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.

Source: TH
