



News Analysis (02 Jun, 2020)

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MSP Raised for Kharif Crops

Why in News

Recently, the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has marginally increased the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** of more than a dozen crops for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2020-21.

Key Points

- The MSP has been raised in the range of 2%-7.5% for the kharif crops based on the recommendation of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.
- The increase in MSP is in line with the **Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 1.5 times** of the all-India weighted average cost of production, **aiming at reasonably fair remuneration for the farmers**.
- **Issue:** This rise will not make much of a difference to farmers, unless there is large scale government procurement in most crops at MSP.
- **Kharif crops:** They are the crops which are grown during the monsoon or rainy season from June to October. **Examples:** Paddy, Cotton, etc.

Minimum Support Price

- The MSP is the rate at which the **government buys grains from farmers**.
- **Reason behind the idea of MSP is to counter** price volatility of **agricultural commodities** due to the factors like variation in their supply, lack of market integration and information asymmetry.
- **Fixation of MSP:** The MSP is fixed **on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.

- **Factors taken into consideration** for fixing MSP include:
 - Demand and supply,
 - Cost of production (**A2 + FL method**),
 - Price trends in the market, both domestic and international,
 - Inter-crop price parity,
 - Terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture,
 - A minimum of 50% as the margin over cost of production, and
 - Likely implications of MSP on consumers of that product.
- The **Commission also makes visits to states** for on-the-spot assessment of the various constraints that farmers face in marketing their produce, or even raising the productivity levels of their crops.
- Based on all these inputs, the Commission then finalizes its recommendations/reports, which are then submitted to the government.
- The government, in turn, circulates the CACP reports to state governments and concerned Central Ministries for their comments.
- After receiving the feed-back from them, the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) of the Union government takes a final decision** on the level of MSPs and other recommendations made by the CACP.
- **Procurement:** The **Food Corporation of India (FCI)**, the nodal central agency of the Government of India, along with other State Agencies undertakes procurement of crops.
- **MSP Calculation:** This MSP is usually estimated based on **three types** of calculation methods.
 - **A2:** Under this, MSP is set 50% higher than the amount farmers spend on farming including spending on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, and labour.
 - **A2+FL:** It includes A2 plus an assigned value of unpaid family labour.
 - **C2:** Under C2, the estimated land rent and the cost of interest on the money taken for farming are added on top of A2+FL.
- The Central government had set up the **National Commission on Farmers (NCF) in 2004** to address the issues of farmers in India including that of calculation of MSP.

National Commission on Farmers: Swaminathan Committee

- On 18th November, 2004, the Union government constituted this committee **with MS Swaminathan as its chairman**.
- The main **aim of the committee** was to **come up with a sustainable farming system, make farm commodities cost-competitive and more profitable**.
- The commission, in 2006, recommended that MSPs must be at least 50% more than the cost of production and **recommended the C2 method for MSP calculation**.
- However, the **government calculates** its MSP based on the **A2+FL method**.

Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices

- The CACP is an **attached office** of the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, formed in 1965. It is a **statutory body**.
- Currently, the Commission comprises a **Chairman, Member Secretary, one Member (Official) and two Members (Non-Official)**.

The non-official members are representatives of the farming community and usually have an active association with the farming community.

- It is mandated to recommend **Minimum Support Prices (MSPs)** to incentivize the cultivators to adopt modern technology, and raise productivity and overall grain production.
- CACP submits separate reports recommending prices for **Kharif and Rabi seasons**.

Source: IE

India's Rating Downgraded

Why in News

Recently, ratings agency Moody's Investors Service downgraded India's sovereign ratings from Baa2 to Baa3.

Key Points

- **Reason:**
 - The ratings agency cited **slow reform momentum, constrained policy effectiveness and slower growth** compared to India's potential among the reasons for the downgrade.
 - Covid-19 pandemic has only amplified the vulnerabilities in India's credit profile that were **present and building prior to the shock**.
 - The rating has been downgraded in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, it was **not driven by the impact of the pandemic**.
- **Lowest Grade:**
 - Baa3 is the **lowest investment grade** in Moody's rating ladder.
 - This means, India is just one notch above the non-investment grade or junk grade.
 - Moody's had upgraded the country's rating to Baa2 in November 2017.

- **Lowers Growth Forecast:**

According to Moody, India's real GDP growth rate will contract by 4% in 2020-21 due to the shock from the coronavirus pandemic and related lockdown measures.

- It expects the economy to grow 8.7% next financial year and closer to 6% in the subsequent year.
- India's GDP growth slipped to an 11-year low of 4.2% in 2019-20. The fiscal deficit also expanded to 4.6% of the GDP as against the revised estimate of 3.8% of GDP in the previous financial year.

- **Other Economic Issues:**

- **Credit Crunch:** The rating agency did not expect the credit crunch in the country's under-capitalised financial sector to be resolved quickly.
- **High Debt Burden:** The fiscal constraints point to a **higher debt burden** for a longer period of time.

The lower GDP growth over the medium term will diminish the government's ability to reduce its debt burden after a significant rise due to the coronavirus economic shock.

- **Lower Tax Revenue:** India's **large low-income population** will limit the government's tax revenue base.

- **Government effort not adequate for sustainable growth:**

The government response to the growth slowdown prior to the coronavirus outbreak as well as the recent support package for vulnerable households and small businesses is **not enough to restore the sustainable GDP growth.**

Credit Rating

- A credit rating is a quantified assessment of the **creditworthiness of a borrower** in general terms or with respect to a particular debt or financial obligation.
- A credit rating can be assigned to **any entity that seeks to borrow money**—an individual, corporation, state or provincial authority, or sovereign government.
- A **sovereign credit rating** is an independent assessment of the creditworthiness of a country or sovereign entity.
 - Sovereign credit ratings can give **investors insights into the level of risk associated** with investing in the debt of a particular country, including any political risk.
 - Investors use sovereign credit ratings as a way to assess the riskiness of a particular country's bonds.
 - Obtaining good sovereign credit rating is usually essential for developing countries in order to access funding in international bond markets.
- A **rating agency** is a company that assesses the financial strength of companies and government entities, especially their ability to meet principal and interest payments on their debts.

- **The Big Three Credit Rating Agencies:** Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's (S&P) are the big three international credit rating agencies controlling approximately 95% of global ratings business.
- In India, there are six credit rating agencies registered under **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** namely, CRISIL, ICRA, CARE, SMERA, Fitch India and Brickwork Ratings.

Source: IE

PM SVANidhi: Micro Credit Scheme for Street Vendors

Why in News

The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has launched **Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)**, for providing **affordable loans to street vendors**.

- Earlier, the Scheme was announced as a part of the **Economic Stimulus-II** under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**.
- The scheme would benefit **vendors, hawkers, thelewale and people involved in goods and services related to textiles, apparel, artisan products, barbers shops, laundry services** etc. in different areas.

Key Points

- **Loan facility:**

- The vendors can avail a working **capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000**, which is repayable in monthly instalments within a year. The loans would be **without collateral**.

It is for the first time that **Microfinance Institutions, Non-Banking Financial Company, Self Help Groups** have been allowed in a scheme for the urban poor due to their ground level presence and proximity to the urban poor including the street vendors.

- There will be **no penalty on early repayment** of loan.

Early repayment (or resettlement) is a clearance of debt or loan before the scheduled time. Many banks and lenders charge penalties for repaying loans early.

- Those **who were vending till 24th March, 2020 can avail the benefits of the scheme**.

This is for the **first time** that **street vendors from peri-urban/rural** areas have become beneficiaries of an urban livelihood programme.

- The **scheme is valid until March 2022**.

- **Interest Subsidy:**

On timely/early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy of **7% per annum** will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through direct benefit transfer on a six monthly basis.

- **Escalation of credit limits:**

The scheme provides for the rise of the credit limit on timely/ early repayment of loans i.e. if a street vendor repays the installments on time or earlier, he or she can develop his or her credit score that makes him/her **eligible for a higher amount of term loan such as Rs. 20,000**.

- **Encourage digital transactions:**

The scheme incentivises digital transactions by the street vendors through monthly cash back.

- **Focus on capacity building:**

MoHUA in collaboration with State Governments will launch a capacity building and financial literacy programme of all the stakeholders and **Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities** throughout the country during the month of **June** and **loaning will commence in the month of July**.

- **Role of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs):**

ULBs will play a pivotal role in the **implementation of the scheme** by ensuring to target the beneficiary and reaching to them in an efficient manner.

- **E-governance:**
 - In line with the vision of leveraging technology to ensure effective delivery and transparency, a digital platform with web portal/ mobile app is being developed to administer the scheme with end-to-end solution.
 - This platform will integrate the web portal/ mobile app with **UdyamiMitra portal of SIDBI** for credit management and **PAiSA portal of MoHUA** to administer interest subsidy automatically.
 - It will help in **integrating the vendors into the formal financial system.**

Way Forward

- The loans through the scheme would help to **kick-start activity for vendors** who have been left without any income due to the impact of Covid-19 and lockdown.
- Despite multiple schemes running for the street vendors, there are various gaps in **implementation, identification, awareness and accessibility of various schemes** which should be plugged in a timely manner.
- Benefits like **maternity allowances, accident relief, natural death compensation, education support for children for higher studies, pension** during any crisis should be provided to them.

Source: PIB

PM-CARES Not Under RTI

Why in News

The **Prime Minister's Office (PMO)** has clarified that the **Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM-CARES Fund)** is **not a public authority under the ambit of the Right to Information Act (RTI), 2005.**

- PM-CARES Fund was **set to accept donations and provide relief** during the **Covid-19 pandemic**, and other similar emergencies.
- The PMO's response came in the backdrop of the RTI query filed to know the Fund's trust deed and all government orders, notifications and circulars relating to its creation and operation.

PM-CARES Fund

- **Description:**

- PM-CARES was set up as a **public charitable trust** with the trust deed registered on March 27, 2020.
- It can avail donations from the foreign contribution and donations to fund can also avail **100% tax exemption**.
- PM-CARES is **different** from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

- **Purpose:**

- It is meant for **supporting relief or assistance** of any kind relating to a public health emergency or any other kind of emergency, calamity or distress, either man-made or natural.
- It includes the creation or upgradation of healthcare or pharmaceutical facilities, funding relevant research or any other type of support.

- **Composition:**

- **Prime Minister as chairperson**
- Defence Minister, Home Minister, Finance Minister
- Three trustees nominated by the Prime Minister "who shall be eminent persons in the field of research, health, science, social work, law, public administration and philanthropy".

Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)

- **Description:**

- PMNRF was instituted in **1948** by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, to **assist displaced persons from Pakistan**.
- The fund is recognized as a **Trust under the Income Tax Act** and the same is managed by the Prime Minister or multiple delegates for national causes.
- The contributions towards PMNRF are notified for **100% deduction** from taxable income under section 80(G) of the **Income Tax Act, 1961**.

- **Purpose:**

- The fund is currently used primarily **to tackle natural calamities** like floods, cyclones and earthquakes.
- The fund is also used to help with medical treatment like kidney transplantation, cancer treatment and acid attack.

- **Contributions:**

- The fund consists **entirely of public contributions** and **does not get any budgetary support**. It accepts voluntary contributions from Individuals, Organizations, Trusts, Companies and Institutions etc.
- The corpus of the fund is also invested in various forms with scheduled commercial banks and other agencies. Disbursements are made **with the approval of the Prime Minister**.

Key Points

- **PM-CARES Not a Public Authority:**
 - It has been stated that the PM-CARES Fund is **not a Public Authority** under the ambit of **Section 2(h) of the RTI Act, 2005**.
 - However, relevant information in respect of PM-CARES Fund may be seen on the website pmcares.gov.in.
- **Ambiguous Nature of PMNRF Under RTI:**
 - There is **ambiguity** regarding whether the PMNRF (Prime Minister's National Relief Fund) is subject to the RTI Act.
 - The **Central Information Commission (CIC)** has **directed PMNRF to disclose** information as a **result of the Delhi High Court's split opinion** on the question of whether PMNRF is a public authority under the Act.

The split opinion signifies that some Justices from the Delhi High Court Bench held PMNRF as a public authority, whereas some Justices held that PMNRF is not a public authority.
- **Audit of PM-CARES and PMNRF:**
 - Earlier, the **Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG)** office had clarified that it **wouldn't audit the PM-CARES Fund** as it is '**a charitable organisation**' and is also based on donations from individuals and organisations.
 - The PMNRF too is **not audited by CAG** but it is **audited by an independent auditor outside of the government**.

Section 2 (h) of the RTI Act

- Under **section 2(h) of the RTI Act "Public authority"** means any authority or body or institution of self government established or constituted—
 - by or under the Constitution;
 - by any other law made by Parliament/State Legislature.
 - by notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government, and includes any—
 - body owned, controlled or substantially financed;
 - non-Government organisation substantially financed, directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government.
- Earlier in 2019, the Supreme Court ruled that the **office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) is a public authority** under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.

Source:TH

Social Stock Exchange

Why in News

Recently, an expert panel constituted by the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has recommended allowing **non-profit organisations** to directly list on **Social Stock Exchanges (SSE)**.

Major Recommendations

- **Issuance of Bonds:**

Allowing non-profit organisations to directly list through issuance of bonds in the form of **zero coupon or zero principal bonds**.

- **Zero-coupon bond** is a debt security that **does not pay interest** but instead trades at a deep discount, drawing a profit at maturity, when the bond is **redeemed for its full face value**.
- This would help to access funds from donors, philanthropic foundations and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spenders as they will be encouraged to buy zero coupon bonds.

- **Social Venture Funds (SVFs):**

It recommends a range of funding avenues, such as **Social Venture Funds (SVFs) under Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**.

Social Venture Funds (SVFs) are funds investing in early-stage social enterprises to expand opportunity for people living in poverty.

- **Enhanced Reporting Standards:**

Profit social enterprises be allowed to list on the platform with **enhanced reporting requirements**.

- The social stock exchange can be housed within the existing national bourses like the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE)**.

- **Significance:**

- This will help the SSE to leverage **existing infrastructure and client relationships** with onboard investors, donors, and social enterprises.
- Certain tax incentives allowed under the recommendation would encourage **participation in the culture of 'giving'** among various stakeholders.
- It would encourage banks and other investors to participate with non profit organisations and thereby making social and economic growth more inclusive.

Social Stock Exchange (SSE)

- The idea of the **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)** as a platform for listing social enterprise, voluntary and welfare organisations so that they can raise capital was mooted in the Union Budget 2019-20.

Social enterprise can be defined as a non-loss; non-dividend paying company created and designed to address a social problem.

- It works under the market regulator **SEBI**.

- The aim of the initiative is to help **social and voluntary organisations** which work for social causes to **raise capital as equity or debt or a unit of mutual fund**.
- It provides new and cheaper sources of **financing for social welfare projects**, while showcasing India's independence from foreign aid .
- SSE already exists in countries such as Singapore, UK, Canada among others. These countries allow firms operating in sectors such as health, environment and transportation to raise risk capital.

Way Forward

- India is a home to more than 2 million social enterprises (non-profits, for-profits), hence the recommendations regarding listing of the Non Profit Organisations on social stock exchange need careful planning. While formulating such recommendations for India, it is required to have an extensive and **cautious approach in terms of its accreditation, valuation and monitoring**.
- There is a need to learn from the other countries e.g. In London, where SSE acts more as a **directory connecting social enterprises with potential investors**, while in **Canada** as an online platform where even retail investors can invest in funds or companies with social impact.

Source: TH

Antifa in USA

Why in News

The USA is experiencing a '**law and order**' situation due to the violent nationwide protests triggered by anger over **racial inequities and excessive use of police force**.

- The unrest began with peaceful protests over the **death of a African-American man** in police custody in Minneapolis city of USA.
- Subsequently, many cities across the USA remain under curfews **at a level not seen since** riots following the **1968 assassination of civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr.**

Key Points

- **Blame for Ongoing Violent Protest :**
 - The USA President has **blamed** an organisation namely, **Antifa** for the violent protest that erupted in the country.
 - The antifa movement **gained more visibility in 2017** after a series of events that put a spotlight on anti-fascist protesters.
- **Declaration as Terrorist Organisation:**
 - It has been also argued that the USA will be designating Antifa as a **terrorist organization** in the future.
 - Although, the USA has **no statute that permits designating violent domestic groups terrorists**, as it has for international groups like Islamic State or Al-Qaeda.

Antifa

- **Description:**
 - The word “antifa” was **first** used in **1946**, Antifa stands for “**Anti-fascism**”.
 - The name comes from **early 1930s Germany**, where socialist "anti-fa" groups attempted to **stand up to the rise of Adolf Hitler's Nazis**.
 - Antifa was started in the **Rose City Antifa of Portland, Oregon (USA)** in **2007** to shut down a neo-Nazi skinhead music festival called Hammerfest.
- **Principles:**
 - The organisation covers a **range of social justice issues**. It believes in a world **free of fascism, racism, sexism, homo/transphobia, and islamophobia**.
 - It also focusses on countering the **resurgence of neo-nazi and white supremacist groups**.
 - It is also **only one** activist movement that has come together in the past few years **to oppose the far right**.
- **Members:**
 - Antifa is more of a movement of activists whose followers **share a philosophy and tactics**.
 - The **movement is secretive and has no official leaders**.
 - It is organised into **autonomous local cells**.

- **Unique Ways to Protest:**

- Antifa members typically **dress in black and often wear a mask at their demonstrations**, and follow **far-left ideologies such as anti-capitalism**.
- What makes them stand out is the violence, although the group also participates in non-violent protests.
- It **criticises mainstream liberal politicians for not doing enough**, and Antifa members have often physically confronted their conservative opponents.
- Apart from public counter-protests, Antifa members run websites that track white extremist and ultra-right groups.

Fascism

- **Features:**

- Fascism is a form of **authoritarian ideology which promotes ultranationalism**.
- Opposed to Liberalism, Marxism, and Anarchism, Fascism is **placed on the far-right within** the traditional left–right spectrum.
- It is usually characterized by **dictatorial power, forcible suppression of opposition, as well as strong regimentation of society and of the economy**.

- **Origin and Spread:**

- The term ‘fascism’ is of Italian origin. It was first used for the movement which started in Italy under the leadership of Benito Mussolini.
- It came to prominence in early **20th-century Europe**. The first fascist movements emerged **in Italy during World War I**, before spreading to other European countries.
- Several other countries also have experienced fascist regimes or elements of them which include Adolf Hitler in Germany, Francisco Franco in Spain and Juan Perón in Argentina, etc.

Source: TH

Cyclone Nisarga

Why in News

A fast-moving **depression in the Arabian Sea** is predicted to be intensified **into a severe cyclone named ‘Nisarga’**.

The **name ‘Nisarga’** has **been suggested by Bangladesh**.

Key Points

- As per the **India Meteorological Department**, the impact of the cyclone is likely to be felt in **Maharashtra** and **Gujarat**.
- There is a **concern about the impact of the cyclonic storm on the battle against Covid-19**, as the rain and flooding may set back social distancing and other necessary measures at evacuation centres, and even at some Covid-19 facilities located in low-lying areas.
- Few days back, **super cyclone Amphan** - one of the strongest cyclones the country has seen in the last few decades - hit West Bengal, Odisha and Bangladesh.
 - **Cyclone Nisarga is expected to be weaker than Cyclone Amphan** in strength and intensity.
 - However in case of both the cyclones, the **exceptional warm ocean temperatures** seem to be behind the intense storms.
- **Cyclones in Arabian Sea:**
 - While cyclones have always been more frequent in Bay of Bengal, they have been **less frequent off of India's western coast** — a trend that has been gradually changing, according to scientists.
 - Further, cyclones formed in the Bay of Bengal are stronger than those on the Arabian Sea side. The **relatively cold waters of the Arabian Sea discourage the kind of very strong cyclones** that are formed on the Bay of Bengal side.
 - The **year 2019 was slightly unusual** as the Arabian Sea saw the most frequent and intense cyclonic activity in more than 100 years. Five cyclones originated in the area in 2019 — **Vayu, Hikka, Kyarr, Maha** and Pavan — when normally only one or two are formed.

The Arabian Sea saw more cyclonic storms than the Bay of Bengal during 2019. The Bay of Bengal reported less than normal number of cyclones.

The three cyclones formed were — Cyclones **Pabuk, Fani, Bulbul**.
 - Post-monsoon cyclones have been seen in Arabian Sea. However, pre-monsoon cyclones, such as Nisarga, have so far been rare.

Tropical Cyclone

- A Tropical cyclone is an intense circular storm that originates over **warm tropical oceans and is characterized by low atmospheric pressure, high winds, and heavy rain**.
- A characteristic feature of tropical cyclones is the **eye**, a central region of clear skies, warm temperatures, and low atmospheric pressure.
- Storms of this type are called **hurricanes in the North Atlantic and eastern Pacific** and **typhoons in SouthEast Asia and China**. They are called **tropical cyclones in the southwest Pacific and Indian Ocean region**.
- In the **southern hemisphere storms rotate clockwise and anticlockwise in the northern hemisphere**.

India Meteorological Department

- IMD was established in 1875.
- It is an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India**.
- It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology.

Source: IE

SPIC MACAY

Why in News

Recently, the Prime **Minister of India** addressed the **SPIC MACAY's International Convention** via video conference.

- He appreciated the new elements in the SPIC MACAY convention this year like nature walk, heritage walk, literature and holistic food along with Yoga and Naad Yoga.
- He also stated that music is strengthening the ideal of '**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**'.

Key Points

- **SPIC MACAY (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music And Culture Amongst Youth)** is a non-political, nationwide, voluntary movement **founded in 1977 by Dr Kiran Seth**.
He was awarded the **Padma Shri** for his contribution to the arts in 2009.
- It is a participatory student movement **registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- In 2011, it was awarded the **Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana award** in recognition of its contribution to youth development.
- Its **intention** is to enrich the quality of formal education by increasing awareness about different aspects of Indian heritage and inspiring the young mind to imbibe the values embedded in it.
- It is **supported nationally** by the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- It has been organising national and international conventions for the last 35 years.
Anubhav, a week-long online project, seeks to help youngsters indulge in mystical and diverse aspects of Indian art, culture and heritage. It is expected to reduce the stress triggered by **Covid-19**.

- The movement has a **central executive body in New Delhi** and organises its programmes through a worldwide network of schools, colleges and educational institutions.

Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award

- In 1992, a year after Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) of the Indian National Congress (INC) instituted Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana award in memory of the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- This award is presented every year to those who have devoted their life in understanding and promoting social harmony. It constitutes a citation and cash Prize of Rs. 10 Lakh.

Source:PIB

DRDO's Ultra Swachh

Why in News

The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has developed a **disinfection unit named Ultra Swachh** to disinfect a wide range of materials, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), electronics items, fabrics, etc.

Key Points

- The system uses an advanced oxidative process (ozonation).
 - **Ozonation** is a type of advanced oxidation process, involving the production of very reactive oxygen species able to attack a wide range of organic compounds and all microorganisms.
 - Ozone is more effective than chlorine in destroying viruses and bacteria.
- The system is double layered with specialised Ozone sealant technology assuring trapping of ozone for the necessary disinfection cycle.
- It also has a catalytic converter to ensure environment friendly exhaust i.e only oxygen and water.

A **catalytic converter** is a device used in exhaust systems to reduce emissions.
- The Ultra Swachh comes in two variants namely Ozonated Space and Trinetra Technology. Trinetra technology is the combination of Ozonated space and radical dispenser.

Defence Research and Development Organisation

- DRDO was established in 1958 after combining the Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO).
- DRDO works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- It is working to establish a world class science and technology base for India and provides our Defence Services decisive edge by equipping them with internationally competitive systems and solutions.

Source:PIB
