



## News Analysis (08 Apr, 2021)

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### India-Russia Foreign Ministers Meet

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#### Why in News

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To build on the common “resilient” ground, Indian and Russian Foreign Ministers addressed each other’s concerns on a wide range of issues.

The issues range from **defence supplies to the S-400 air defence system, India’s role in Afghanistan and Taliban’s involvement in power-sharing to cooperation on Covid vaccines and India’s participation in the Quad grouping.**

#### Key Points

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## Discussed Cooperation in Following Sectors:

- Economic opportunities in the **Russian Far East**.
  - The Russian Far East stretches from **Lake Baikal, the world's largest freshwater lake, to the Pacific Ocean** and comprises roughly a third of Russia's territory.
  - Although it is **rich in natural resources** including minerals, hydrocarbons, timber and fish, it is an **economically underdeveloped** region.
- Leveraging the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** campaign to boost manufacturing in India.
- Connectivity through the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**.

INSTC is a multi-modal transportation established in September 2000 in St. Petersburg, by Iran, Russia and India for the purpose of promoting transportation cooperation.
- The **Chennai-Vladivostok Eastern maritime corridor**.

It is a **maritime route** covering approximately 5,600 nautical miles, aimed at increasing bilateral trade between India and Russia.
- Long standing partnership in **space and nuclear sectors**.



- **S-400 Air Defence System:**

- Issues regarding the sale of the **S-400 air defence system** figured in the discussions.
  - The S-400 Triumf is a mobile, **surface-to-air missile system (SAM)** designed by Russia.
  - It is the most dangerous operationally deployed **modern long-range SAM (MLR SAM)** in the world, considered much ahead of the **US-developed Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system (THAAD)**.
- While India is keen on buying it, the USA has expressed reservations by threatening sanctions under **Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)**.

- **Views on Military Alliance and Indo-Pacific:**

- **Military Alliance:**

- Russian Foreign Minister clarified that the **Russia-China relations** are at the highest in the history, but these relations **do not pursue a goal of establishing a military alliance**.
- He also **referred to the Quad grouping** and called it an “**Asian NATO**”, a term sometimes used by China.

**Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)** is an informal strategic dialogue between India, USA, Japan and Australia with a shared objective to ensure and support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region.

- **Indo-Pacific:**

- Russia and India are working for **stability and connectivity in the Asia-Pacific** and urged that “military alliances” should not come up in Asia.
- Russia referred to the formulation of “**Asia Pacific**” while India referred to “**Indo-Pacific**”.

- **Afghan Peace:**

- There is a need to “**harmonise**” the interests of various stakeholders that are active in and around Afghanistan.
- The **peace process** should be based on foundational principles and a political solution should mean **independent, sovereign, united and democratic Afghanistan**.
- Decision on the settlement in Afghanistan should foresee the **participation of all political, ethnic and religious groups** in the country. Otherwise the solution will not be stable.

It needs to be noted that India was not a part of a recent meeting led by Russia on Afghan peace.

- **Medical Cooperation:**

- The Russian Fund for Direct Investment has signed contracts with various Indian manufacturers for **Sputnik V vaccines** for 700-750 million doses.
- Both ministers also took up the possible export of the **Covaxin** to Russia which is likely to be cleared by experts.

## India - Russia Relations

- **Political (Annual Summit):** The Annual Summit meeting between the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation is the highest institutionalized dialogue mechanism in the strategic partnership between India and Russia.
- **Economic:** India-Russia trade, amounting to **USD 10.11 billion in 2019-2020**, is far below the potential. Both countries have **set the bilateral trade target at USD 30 billion by 2025**.
- **Defence and Security: BrahMos Missile System** as well as the licensed production in India of **SU-30 aircraft and T-90 tanks**, are examples.
- **Cooperation in Nuclear Energy: Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP)** is being built in India with Russian cooperation.
- **Cooperation in Space Sector:** Cooperation in **Gaganyaan program**.
- **Military Exercises:**
  - **Exercise TSENTR 2019.**
  - **Indra Exercises** - Joint Tri-Services (Army, Navy, Air Force) Exercises.

## Way Forward

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- **India Engaging Russia Into Indo-Pacific Narrative:** India should pursue and facilitate Russia's engagement in the Indo-Pacific.  
Russia's active engagement in the region would contribute to making the Indo-Pacific truly "free and inclusive".
- **Prioritizing RIC in Indian Foreign Policy:** India can also promote a mutually beneficial trilateral cooperation between Russia, China, and India that could contribute towards the reduction of mistrust and suspicion between India and China.

## Source:IE

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## Ukraine's Bid to Join NATO

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### Why in News

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Ukrainian President urged the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** to speed up his country's membership in the alliance.

Ukraine hopes to be invited this year to join a **NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP)**.

## Key Points

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- **Reasons for Ukraine to Join NATO:**



- Ukraine is of the opinion that **joining NATO is the only way to end fighting with pro-Russia separatists.**
- There is an increase in clashes and Russian military movements on the border raise fears of an escalation of the **separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine.**
- Ukraine accuses Russia of massing thousands of military personnel on its northern and eastern borders as well as on the **Crimean peninsula** (annexed by Russia in 2014).
- Ukraine's Western allies have rushed to its defence, with a series of statements warning Russia against taking further action.

**India did not join the Western powers' condemnation** of Russia's intervention in Crimea and kept a low profile on the issue.

- **About North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):**

- It is a **military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty** (also called the **Washington Treaty**) of 4th April, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- It is headquartered at **Brussels, Belgium**.
- A key provision of the treaty, the so-called **Article 5**, states that if one member of the alliance is attacked in Europe or North America, it is to be considered an attack on all members. That effectively put Western Europe under the "nuclear umbrella" of the US.

**NATO has only once invoked Article 5**, on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2001, following the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center in the US.

- NATO's protection **does not extend to members' civil wars or internal coups**.
- As of 30th March 2021, there are 30 member states, with the Republic of North Macedonia becoming the latest member to join the alliance in 2020.

## **Membership Action Plan**

- It is a NATO programme of advice, assistance and practical support tailored to the individual needs of countries wishing to join the Alliance.
- Participation in the MAP does not prejudice any decision by the Alliance on future membership.
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina** is currently participating in MAP.

**Source:TH**

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## **Opium Poppy Straw**

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### **Why in News**

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The Central government has decided to **rope in the private sector to commence production of concentrated poppy straw (CPS) from India's opium crop to boost the yield of alkaloids**, used for medical purposes and exported to several countries.

### **Alkaloids**

- Alkaloids are a huge group of naturally **occurring organic compounds which contain nitrogen atom or atoms** (amino or amido in some cases) in their structures.
- These nitrogen atoms cause alkalinity of these compounds.
- Well-known alkaloids include **morphine, strychnine, quinine, ephedrine, and nicotine**.

- The medicinal properties of alkaloids are quite diverse. Morphine is a powerful narcotic used for the relief of pain, though its addictive properties limit its usefulness. Codeine, the methyl ether derivative of morphine found in the opium poppy, is an excellent analgesic that is relatively nonaddictive.

## Key Points

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- **Poppy Straw:**
  - Poppy straw is the **husk left after the opium is extracted** from pods.
  - This poppy straw also contains a **very small morphine content** and if used in sufficient quantities, poppy straw can give a high.
  - **Possession, sale, use, etc.** of poppy straw is **regulated by the State Governments** under the **State Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Rules**.
  - Farmers sell the poppy straw to those licensed by the State Governments to purchase poppy straw.
    - Any excess poppy straw is ploughed back into the field.
  - Poppy straw is one of the narcotic drugs under the **Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 (NDPS Act)**.
    - Hence, anyone possessing, selling, purchasing or using poppy straw **without a license or authorization or in violation** of any conditions of the license is liable to prosecution under the NDPS Act.
- **Current Extraction of Alkaloids:**
  - India currently only **extracts alkaloids from opium gum** at facilities controlled by the Revenue Department in the Ministry of Finance.
    - This entails farmers extracting gum by manually lancing the opium pods and selling the gum to government factories.
  - The Ministry has now decided to **switch to new technologies**, after trial cultivation by two private firms showed higher extraction of alkaloids using the **Concentrated Poppy Straw (CPS)**. Thus, the Government is mulling the idea of using public-private partnership (PPP).

- **Partnership Model:**

- Two types of Narcotic Raw Material (NRM) can be produced from opium poppy - **Opium gum and Concentrate of Poppy Straw (CPS)**.
- So far, only opium gum has been produced in India. The Government of India has now decided that CPS production should be commenced in India.
- The various stakeholders will frame an appropriate model including **public-private partnership (PPP)**, advise on the changes needed to the rules and laws to facilitate private investment, and recommend security measures to protect the crop and the final product.
- The firms carrying out the **trials faced legal hassles** in terms of getting relevant licences from the State governments to manufacture bulk alkaloids on their premises, this issue will need to be ironed out.
- As per the trials' findings, the **imported seeds of certain CPS varieties worked effectively in Indian fields** and their narcotic raw material yield was much higher from imported seeds instead of those used currently.
- Some firms also **cultivated CPS with hydroponic and aeroponic methods** under a greenhouse environment.

Both Hydroponics and Aeroponics are sustainable, water-conservative farming methods, differing only by the medium which is used in the growth of the plants.

- **Significance of the Move:**

- While alkaloid extraction from the current opium crop using the CPS was found more than opium gum, it is possible to have two or three crop cycles in one year if CPS varieties of seeds are used in an indoor greenhouse environment.
- **India's opium crop acreage has been steadily declining** over the years and using the CPS extraction method is expected to help cut the occasional dependence on imports of products like codeine (extracted from opium) for medicinal uses.

## **Opium Cultivation In India**

- After independence, the control over cultivation and manufacture of opium became **responsibility of the Central Government** with effect from April, 1950.
- At present the **Narcotics Commissioner** along with the subordinates exercises all **powers and performs all functions** relating to superintendence of the cultivation of the opium poppy and production of opium.
  - The Commissioner derives this power from the **Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 and Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Rules, 1985**.
  - **License for manufacture** of certain types of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as permits for export and import of narcotic drugs, psychotropic and controlled substances are issued with the approval and permission of the Narcotics Commissioner.



- The Government of India announces the **licensing policy for cultivation of opium poppy every year**, prescribing the minimum qualifying yield for issue of or renewal of licence, maximum area that can be cultivated by an individual cultivator, the maximum benefit that can be allowed to a cultivator for damage due to natural causes, etc.
- The opium poppy can be cultivated only in such tracts as are **notified by the Government**.
  - At present these **tracts are confined to three States, viz. Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh**.
  - **Mandsaur district** of Madhya Pradesh and **Chittorgarh and Jhalawar Districts of Rajasthan** constitute about **80% of the total area cultivated**.
- India is one of the few countries **internationally permitted (by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ) to cultivate opium poppy for export**.

### Uses

- Opium is unique in its therapeutic value and is indispensable in the medical world.
- It also finds use in **Homeopathy and Ayurveda or Unani systems** of indigenous medicines.
- The opium which is used as **Analgesics, Anti-Tussive, Anti spasmodic** and as a source of **edible seed-oil**, acts as a **medicinal herb**.

### Source:TH

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## India's Life Expectancy on World Health Day 2021

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### Why in News

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According to the estimates from the **Sample Registration System (SRS)-based Abridged Life Tables 2014-18** of the **Census and Registrar General of India**, the life expectancy of an Indian child born on **World Health Day** 2021 is below the world's average.

Every year **7<sup>th</sup> April** marks the celebration of **World Health Day**.

### Key Points

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- **Life Expectancy:**
  - It is an estimate of the average number of additional years that a person of a given age can expect to live.
 

The most common measure of life expectancy is **life expectancy at birth**.
  - India's life expectancy (for a child born in 2021) which is **69 years and 4 months** is less than the **world's average lifespan of 72.81 years**.

- **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):**
  - It is the **number of deaths per 1,000** live births of children **under one year of age**.
  - For India, **IMR is 33**.
- **Life Expectancy will be Reduced Further Due to Pollution:**
  - The quality of life of these children will suffer and the average life span is estimated to be cut short by two years and six months due by constant exposure to **“toxic air”** in the country.
    - India topped the chart by recording the world's highest annual average concentration of PM 2.5 exposure in its air in 2019, according to the **State of Global Air 2020**.
    - In 2020, India was home to 35 of the world’s 50 most polluted cities, according to **IQ Air’s World Air Quality Report**.  
These included **Ghaziabad, Bulandshahr and Delhi among the top 10**.
  - Thus, an **Indian child will live for 66 years and 8 months only** and may not survive to celebrate his/her 67th birthday beyond April 2089.

## World Health Day

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- **About:**
  - Its idea was conceived at the First Health Assembly in 1948 and it came into effect in 1950.
  - Over the years, it has brought to light important health issues such as mental health, maternal and child care and climate change.
- **Aim:**

To create awareness of a specific health theme to highlight a priority area of concern for the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- **Theme for 2021:**

Building a fairer, healthier world for everyone.
- **Some Indian Initiatives in Health Sector:**
  - **National Medical Commission (NMC) Act, 2019**.
  - **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana**.
  - **Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana**.
  - **India’s Health Index**.

## SRS-Based Abridged Life Tables

- **About:**
  - A life table **states the probabilities of survival** of a hypothetical group or cohort at different ages, which gradually diminish due to deaths.
  - With the introduction of the **Sample Registration System (SRS)**, an alternative source of data has become available for construction of life tables.
  - Based on SRS data, life tables have been prepared for the periods 1970-75, 1976-80, 1981-85 and 1986-90 at five yearly intervals. Since the 1986-90 issue, life tables have been brought out annually on a **five yearly moving average basis so as to form a continuous series.**
- **Use:**
  - It is a **conventional method of expressing the most fundamental and essential facts about the age distribution of mortality** and is a powerful tool for measuring the probability of life and death of various age groups.
  - It **enables us to understand the implication of age-specific mortality** rate in terms of average life expectancy. In India, it has been the practice to construct life tables using age composition of the population from successive population censuses.

Source:DTE

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## Anamaya: Tribal Health Collaborative

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### Why in News

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Recently, the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has launched **Tribal Health Collaborative (THC) 'Anamaya'** through a video conference.

In 2018, an expert committee released a **comprehensive report on tribal health** in India which highlighted the issues and concerns of tribal health.

### Key Points

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- **About:**
  - It is an initiative **bringing together** governments, philanthropists, national and international foundations, **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**/Community Based Organizations (CBOs) **to end all preventable deaths among the tribal communities of India.**
  - It will **converge efforts of various Government agencies and organisations** to enhance the health and nutrition status of the tribal communities of India.
- **Aim:**

To **build a sustainable, high-performing health ecosystem** to address the key health challenges faced by the tribal population of India.

- **Stakeholders:**

It is a multi-stakeholder initiative of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** supported by **Piramal Foundation** and **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)**.

**Piramal Foundation** is the philanthropic arm of Piramal Group. The foundation undertakes projects under the four broad areas – **healthcare, education, livelihood creation and youth empowerment**.

- **Operation:**

- It will **begin its operations with 50 tribal, Aspirational Districts** (with more than 20% **Scheduled Tribe** population) across 6 high tribal population states.
- Over a **10-year period**, the work of the THC will be **extended to 177 tribal Districts** as recognised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

- **Other Initiatives Related to the Tribal Communities:**

- **Programme for Capacity Building of Scheduled Tribe (ST)**

**Representatives in Local Self Governments:**

It is aimed at empowering tribal **Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI)** representatives by enhancing their decision making capabilities at local government level.

- **1000 Springs Initiative:**

- The **1000 Springs Initiative** aims at improving access to safe and adequate water for the tribal communities living in difficult and inaccessible parts of rural areas in the country.
- The initiative will help in harnessing the potential of perennial springs' water to address natural scarcity of water in tribal areas.

- **Tribal Health Cell:**

- A 'Tribal Health Cell' is being set up in the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
- It will help central ministries and state governments to **facilitate and strengthen primary health care** systems and **invest in tribal health research**.

**Source:PIB**

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## **Red Sea**

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### **Why in News**

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An **Iranian freighter was hit by Israel in the Red Sea** in retaliation for past Iranian strikes on its vessels. The blast struck the **Iranian commercial vessel MV Saviz** off the coast of Djibouti.

The attack came as Iranian officials gathered in Vienna to **negotiate the restoration of a 2015 deal Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) that was designed to curb Iran’s nuclear activities.**

## Key Points

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### Red Sea:

#### ◦ Location:

- The Red Sea is a **semi-enclosed tropical basin**, bounded by northeastern Africa, to the west, and the **Arabian peninsula**, to the east.
- The **elongated and narrow-shaped basin** extends between the **Mediterranean Sea**, to the north-west, and the Indian Ocean, to the south-east.
- At the northern end, it separates into the **Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez**, which is connected to the Mediterranean Sea via the **Suez Canal**.
- At the southern end, it is connected to the **Gulf of Aden**, and the outer Indian Ocean, via the Strait of **Bab-el-Mandeb**.
- It is surrounded by **desert or semi-desert areas**, with no major freshwater inflow.

#### ◦ Formation:

- The Red sea acquired its present shape over the **past 4 to 5 million years**, by slow **seafloor spreading**, a fact that makes it a geologically recent opening and one of the **youngest oceanic zones on Earth**.
- Today, the basin continues to widen at a rate of 1-2 cm per year

#### ◦ Biodiversity:

- The unique habitats of the Red sea support a wide range of marine life, including **sea turtles**, **dugongs**, **dolphins** and many endemic fish species.
- **Coral reefs** mainly extend along the northern and central coasts, and decrease in abundance towards the southern region, as coastal waters become more turbid.

#### ◦ The Reason why it is called Red Sea:

- There are various theories as to how the name came about, with the most popular being a reference to the **seasonal blooms of Trichodesmium erythraeum (a red-colored algae)** near the water’s surface.
- Other scholars believe it is linked to the way Asiatic languages often use colors to refer to cardinal directions, with **“red” referring to “south” just as the Black Sea may be referring to the north**.



## Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

- In 2015, **Iran with the P5+1 group of world powers - the US, UK, France, China, Russia, and Germany** agreed on a long-term deal on its nuclear programme.
- The deal was named as **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** and in common parlance as Iran Nuclear Deal.
- The deal came after years of tension over Iran's alleged efforts to develop nuclear weapons.
- Iran insisted that its nuclear programme was entirely peaceful, but the international community did not believe that.
- Under the JCPOA, **Iran agreed to limit its nuclear activities** by stopping uranium enrichment and allowing the international agencies to inspect its nuclear facilities in return for the lifting of economic sanctions.

- However, in May 2018, the USA pulled out of the JCPOA and threatened to impose sanctions on Iran and on nations doing a significant amount of trade with Iran.

**Source:TH**

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## **NABARD Registers 24% Growth**

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### **Why in News**

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**National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** closed its business at Rs. 6.57 lakh crore in FY 2020-21, recording a growth rate of 23.5%.

### **Key Points**

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- **NABARD's Business in 2020-21:**
  - Under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**, NABARD released amounts to **cooperative banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** and to **NBFC-MFIs (Non-Banking Financial Company: Micro Finance Institution)** through a Special Liquidity Facility (SLF).

The SLF was with a view to augment the resources of the Cooperative banks and RRBs to enable them to extend credit to farmers.
  - NABARD registered **a total refinance disbursement of Rs. 2.23 lakh crore** to support agriculture and rural development activities during the pandemic.
  - A **refinance facility of Rs. 500 crore** was introduced to support the Government of India's **Water, Sanitisation and Hygiene (WASH)** programme.

- **About NABARD:**

- **Formation:**

- NABARD **came into existence on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1982** by transferring the agricultural credit functions of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and refinance functions of the then Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC).
    - It is a **statutory body** established under '**National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981**'.

- **Role:**

- It is a **development bank** focussing primarily on the rural sector of the country.
    - It is the **apex banking institution to provide finance for Agriculture and rural development.**

- **Cooperation with the RBI:**

- RBI provides 3 directors to NABARD's Board of Directors.
    - NABARD provides recommendations to RBI on issue of licenses to Cooperative Banks, opening of new branches by State Cooperative Banks and RRBs.

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai

- **Major Functions of NABARD:**

- It provides **refinance support for building rural infrastructure.**

- **Refinancing institutions** are important institutions who give loans to other institutions who ultimately give loans to the end customers.
    - NABARD provides short-term, medium-term and long-term refinance to Cooperative banks and RRBs to supplement their resources for providing adequate credit for supporting investment activities of farmers and rural artisans.

- It **supervises Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** and helps them develop sound banking practices and integrate them to the **CBS (Core Banking Solution) platform.**

CBS can be defined as a solution that enables banks to offer a multitude of customer-centric services on a 24x7 basis from a single location.

- It is **involved in designing Union government's development schemes** and their implementation.

**Examples:** National Livestock Mission, Interest subvention Scheme, New Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, etc.

- NABARD has **various international partnerships including leading global organizations and World Bank-affiliated institutions** that are breaking new ground in the fields of rural development as well as agriculture.

These international partners play a key consultant role in providing advisory services as well as financial assistance designed to ensure uplifting of rural peoples as well as optimization of various agricultural processes.



## **Indian Energy Exchange**

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### **Why in News**

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The **electricity market at Indian Energy Exchange (IEX)** achieved an **all-time high volume of 8,248.52 MU (million units)** in the month of March 2021 surpassing all the previous milestones.

### **Key Points**

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- **About:**
  - It is the first and **largest energy exchange in India** providing a nationwide, automated trading platform for physical delivery of electricity, **Renewable Energy Certificates** and **Energy Saving Certificates**.
  - The exchange platform **enables efficient price discovery and increases the accessibility and transparency of the power market in India** while also enhancing the speed and efficiency of trade execution.
  - It is a publicly listed company with **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** and **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**.
  - It is approved and regulated by **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)** and has been operating since 2008.
- **Mission:**

To **leverage technology and innovation** to establish transparent and efficient energy marketplaces for delivering affordable, reliable energy to consumers.

- **Trading Platform for:**
  - **Physical Delivery of Electricity:**
    - **Day-Ahead Market (DAM):**  
It is a physical electricity trading market for **deliveries for any/some/all 15 minute time blocks in 24 hours of the next day** starting from midnight.
    - **Term-Ahead Market (TAM):**
      - The contracts under TAM cover a range for **buying/selling electricity for duration up to 11 days.**
      - It enables participants to purchase electricity for the same day through **intra-day contracts**, for the next day through day-ahead contingency, on a daily basis for rolling seven days through daily contracts.
  - **Renewable Energy Certificates (REC):**
    - Under the REC mechanism, **a generator can generate electricity through the renewable resources** in any part of the country.  
For the **electricity part**, the generator receives the cost equivalent to that from any conventional source while the **environment attribute** is sold through the exchanges at the market determined price.
    - The obligated entity from any part of the country can purchase these RECs to meet its **RPO (Renewable Purchase Obligation)** compliance.  
Obligated entities **may either purchase renewable energy or can purchase RECs** to meet their RPO set under RPO of their respective States.
  - **Energy Saving Certificates (ESCs):**
    - These are the tradable certificates under the **Perform, Achieve, Trade (PAT) Scheme** of the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**.
    - It is a **market-based mechanism to incentivise energy efficiency** in large energy-intensive industries.

### **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission**

- CERC is a **regulator of the power sector in India.**
- It intends to **promote competition, efficiency and economy** in bulk power markets, **improve the quality of supply, promote investments** and **advise the government** on the removal of institutional barriers to bridge the demand supply gap.
- It is a statutory body functioning with quasi-judicial status under the **Electricity Act 2003.**

**Source:TH**

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