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Export Preparedness Index 2020

- NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020.
- Most of the **Coastal States** are the **best performers**. **Gujarat**, **Maharashtra** and **Tamil Nadu** occupy the top three ranks.
- **Gujarat** has been **ranked first** in the first ever Export Preparedness index 2020
- EPI **intends to identify challenges** and **opportunities**; enhance the effectiveness of government policies and encourage a facilitative regulatory framework.
- The structure of the EPI includes **four pillars** which are **Policy**, **Business Ecosystem**, **Export Ecosystem and Export Performance**.
- It also includes **11 sub-pillars** like Export Promotion Policy, Institutional Framework, Business Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Connectivity.
- Vice- Chairperson of NITI Aayog: Dr Rajiv Kumar
- Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant

Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT)

- Ten regional benches of the Armed Forces Tribunal inaugurated recently.
- With this provision an immense relief has been brought to the Armed Forces personnel, whose applications are awaiting justice at various Regional Benches.
- Chairperson of Armed forces Tribunal: Justice Rajendra Menon
- The **Principal Bench of Armed Forces Tribunal** is the only court that has been conducting **physical hearings**.
- Highlights
 - o **Armed Forces Tribunal** is a military tribunal in India. It was established under the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007.
 - o The Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007 aimed to provide for the adjudication or trial by Armed Forces Tribunal of disputes and complaints, with respect to commission, appointments, enrolment, and conditions of service to the personnel of Army, Navy and Airforce.

Archaeological Survey of India, ASI

- The Ministry of Culture has announced 7 new circles of Archaeological Survey of India, ASI.
- The new circles have been created in Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Gujarat.
- Note: **Trichy, Raiganj, Rajkot, Jabalpur, Jhansi and Meerut** have been announced as new circles.
- The **Archaeological Survey of India** is an Indian government agency attached to the Ministry of Culture that is responsible for archaeological research and the conservation and preservation of cultural monuments in the



country. It was founded in 1861 by **Alexander Cunningham** who also became its **first Director-General.**

Highlights

- **Tamil Nadu** which has thousands of temples and glorious memories of the **Chola kings**, **Trichy** has been made a new circle along with the circle of Chennai.
- Hampi city in Karnataka is a place of international importance from the point of view of archaeological heritage therefore the Hampi Sub-Circle now has been made a new full-fledged circle.
- Raiganj, West Bengal has been made a new circle along with Kolkata, which will eliminate geographical inconvenience in a big state like West Bengal.
- Rajkot, Gujarat has been announced a new circle along with Vadodara.
- **Jabalpur** has been announced a new circle along with Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. This will include the monuments from Jabalpur, Rewa, Shahdol and Sagar divisions.
- Jhansi in Bundelkhand and Meerut in western UP have been announced two new circles along with Lucknow and Agra in Uttar Pradesh.

Health Data Management Policy

- The National Health Authority has released the Draft Health Data Management Policy of the National Digital Health Mission in the public domain.
- The draft of the policy has been released on the official website of National Digital Health Mission and will be available for public comments and feedback till 3rd of next month.
- One of the main objectives of this draft policy is to provide adequate guidance and to set out a framework for the secure processing of personal and sensitive personal data of individuals who are a part of the national digital health ecosystem.

National Digital Health Mission

- The ambitious NDHM programme was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this month during his Independence Day speech.
- The NDHM is implemented by the **National Health Authority** (**NHA**) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The **National Health Authority (NHA)**, is also the implementing agency for **Ayushman Bharat**.
- The NDHM is a complete digital health ecosystem with personal health IDs for every Indian, digitisation of health records as well as a registry of doctors and health facilities across the country.
- The digital platform will be launched with four key features- health ID, personal health records, Digi Doctor and health facility registry. This ID will be applicable across states, hospitals, diagnostic laboratories and pharmacies.



 At a later stage, it will also include e-pharmacy and telemedicine services, regulatory guidelines for which are being framed.

Pradhan mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2021

• Ministry of Women and Child Development has invited nominations for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar-2021 from children, individuals and institutions.

Highlights

- o The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar was **instituted** to felicitate **meritorious children**, **individuals**, **and institutions** of the country.
- o These awards are given under two categories Bal Shakti Puraskar and Bal Kalyan Puraskar.
- The Awards are given by the **President at Rashtrapati Bhavan** in the week preceding **Republic Day** every year.
- o Prime Minister also felicitates the Awardees.
- The Awardees of Bal Shakti Puraskar also take part in Republic Day Parade on the 26th of January on Rajpath.
- o The Bal Shakti Puraskar aims to give recognition to children who have achieved extraordinarily in various fields including innovation, scholastic, sports, art and culture, social service, and bravery.

e-PPO to integrate with Digi locker

- The **Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare**, **DoPPW** has decided to integrate the **electronic Pension Payment Order**, **e-PPO** generated through PFMS application of Controller General of Accounts, with Digi Locker, to enhance Ease of Living of Central Government Civil Pensioners.
- This system will **enable any Pensioner to obtain** an **instant print-out** of the latest copy of their PPO, from their Digi Locker account.
- This initiative will create a permanent record of their PPO in their Digi Locker and at the same time eliminate delays in reaching the PPO to new Pensioners, as well as the necessity of handing over a physical copy.

Digilocker

- o **DigiLocker** is a key initiative under Digital India program. It is aimed at providing paperless governance to the citizen.
- Basically, it is an online service provided by Ministry of Electronics and IT, Government of India under its Digital India initiative. It is a national **Digital Locker** System launched by Govt. of India and it allows all Indian citizens to store scanned or digital formats of their documents.



- o The technology used by DigiLocker is Cloud computing, where all citizens are given 1 GB (gigabyte) of **storage** space on a secure and private cloud account.
- o **DigiLocker** uses Aadhaar to enable authentic document access.

BRICS Indstry Ministers' meet

- Industry Ministers of BRICS countries attended a video meeting to discuss ways to boost cooperation in areas including 5G and Artificial Intelligence.
- The meeting adopted a joint statement on cooperation in new industries such as 5G, AI and the industrial Internet, among BRICS countries five members bloc which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- **Note:** India has also banned some chinese apps and put tighter scrutiny for foreign investments from its neighbouring countries including China. India and China are currently seeing their bilateral relations undergoing a rough phase after 15th June Galwan valley clashes as China is reluctant to restore the status quo.

5G technology

- **5G technology** is the next generation of **wireless communications**.
- It is expected to provide Internet connections that are least 40 times faster than 4G LTE.
- **5G technology** may use a variety of spectrum bands, including millimeter wave (mmWave) radio spectrum, which can carry very large amounts of data a short distance.

Artificial Intelligence

- **Artificial intelligence** (AI) refers to the simulation of human **intelligence** in machines that are programmed to think like humans and mimic their actions.
- The term may also be applied to any machine that exhibits traits associated with a human mind such as learning and problem-solving.

BRICS

- BRICS is the group composed by the **five major emerging countries Brazil**, **Russia**, **India**, **China** and **South Africa** -, which together represent about **42% of the population**, **23% of GDP**, **30% of the territory** and **18% of the global trade**.
- The acronym **BRIC** was coined by **Goldman Sachs in 2001** to indicate the emerging powers that would be, alongside the United States, the five largest economies of the world in the 21st century.
- Originally the first four were grouped as "BRIC" (or "the BRICs"), before the induction of South Africa in 2010.

Africa free of Polio

- World Health Organization has declared Africa free of polio, a landmark in a decades-long campaign to eradicate the notorious disease around the world.
- This was announced by WHO Regional Director of Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti.



- It is certified that **no cases had occurred on the continent for the past four years**, the threshold for eradication of poliovirus.
- Note: As per the WHO, poliovirus now joins smallpox in the list of viruses that have been **wiped out in Africa**.

Polio

- **Polio**, or **poliomyelitis**, is a disabling and life-threatening disease caused by the **poliovirus**.
- The virus spreads from person to person and can infect a **person's spinal cord**, causing **paralysis** (cannot move parts of the body).

WHO

- The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health.
- The WHO Constitution, which establishes the agency's governing structure and principles, states its main objective as "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health."
- WHO's primary role is to **direct international health within the United Nations' system** and to lead partners in global health responses.

World Water Week 2020

- The World Water Week 2020 is observed as the World Water Week at Home (WWWeek at Home) from 24th August to 28th August 2020.
- The theme for World Water Week 2020 at Home is 'Water and Climate change: Accelerating Action'.
- It is an annual global event organized by **Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)** since **1991 and is aimed** to address the planet's water issues and related concerns of international development.
- The World Water Week 2020 has been organised from 24-28 August in virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Crona Drona book launched

- A book title 'Cricket Drona' on renowned coach Vasudev Jagannath Paranipe or Vasoo Paraniape will be released on September 2, 2020.
- The book is written by Vasudev Jagannath Paranjpe's son and current national selector **Jatin Paranjpe** along with Cricket Journalist **Anand Vasu** and published by **Penguin.**

Highlights of the book

- The book talks about the impact of Paranjpe on shaping the careers of India's greatest cricketers like **Gavaskar**, **Tendulkar**, **Rahul Dravid and Rohit Sharma**.
- The book will be a first-hand chronicle of stories, life lessons and gamechanging experiences written by people who have crossed paths with Vasudev Paranjpe at some point in their career.
- The book also consists of essays written by Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Sunil Gavaskar.

Poulomi Ghatak

• **Poulomi Ghatak,** Indian Table Tennis star has announced retirement.





- She had represented India at the **Commonwealth Games in 2006** and **Commonwealth championships between 2000 and 2008.**
- She entered the Olympics in Sydney for the first time when she was 16.

Career Highlights

- In 2006, she won the gold medal in **Women's doubles at the SAF Games** and won bronze at the **Commonwealth in 2006.**
- In 2007, she won bronze at the **Commonwealth Champions.**
- In 2010, she **won silver** at the Commonwealth.
- She had also made till **quarterfinals** in **Asian Games**, **2012**.

MUDRA loan Scheme

- According to the data provided by Ministry of Finance to Rajya Sabha, Tamil Nadu has topped the list of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) in availing loans to women.
- It was followed by **West Bengal** and **Karnataka**. According to the data produced by the Ministry of Finance, around 15 crore loans amounting to Rs 4.78 lakh crores were disbursed to women borrowers since the inception of **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**.
- **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana** was launched in **2015** to provide loans to non-corporate, small and micro-enterprises.
- Under the scheme, loans up to Rs 10 lakhs are provided. The loans are given by Regional Rural Banks, Commercial banks, Small Finance Banks, Non-Banking Financial Corporations, Micro-Financial Institutions.
 Some data highlights
 - As of March 31, 2020, **Tamil Nadu** had availed **Rs 58,227 crores.** The loans provided by other states are as follows:
 - West Bengal: Rs 55,232 crores
 - o Karnataka: Rs 47,714 crores
 - o Bihar: Rs 44,879
 - o Maharashtra: Rs 42,000 crores
 - **Note**: All the above states have received 52% of MUDRA loans for women.
 - The loans were availed to activities allied to agriculture, services, trading, processing, manufacturing, etc.
 - Of the total number of loans provided under MUDRA scheme, 70% of borrowers were women.