

Daily Current Affairs 01/04/2021

1. Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman attends 6th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of New Development Bank



- Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs and India's Governor in New Development Bank (NDB), Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 6th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of New Development Bank on March 30, 2021.
- The meeting was also attended by Governors/Alternate Governors of Brazil, China, Russia and South Africa.
- This year's Annual Meeting theme was “**New Development Paradigms: The Evolution of Infrastructure**”.
- **Note:** Sitharaman mentioned that India is going to set up a new Development Financial Institutions (DFIs) with initial paid-up capital of around \$3 billion with a lending target of \$69 billion in next three years.
- **About New Development Bank (NDB):**
Headquarters: Shanghai, China
President: Marcos Prado Troyjo
Founder: BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa).
Founded: 15 July 2014
First President: K. V. Kamath

2. S Jaishankar attends Heart of Asia conference in Tajikistan



- During his three-day bilateral visit to Tajikistan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended the **9th Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process (HoA-IP)** on Afghanistan in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on March 30, 2021.
- Jaishankar asserted that for a durable peace in Afghanistan, every stakeholder should work towards genuine ‘double peace’ mechanism, which includes peace both within and around Afghanistan.



- **Note:** The 9th Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process ministerial conference is part of the Istanbul Process - a regional initiative on security and cooperation for a stable and peaceful Afghanistan - that was launched on November 2, 2011, in Turkey.
- India co-hosted the 6th Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference in Amritsar, Punjab in December 2016.
- **Facts about Tajikistan:**

Capital: Dushanbe
Currency: Tajikistani somoni
President: Emomali Rahmon

3. MoU signed towards execution of planned actions in time bound manner in 132 cities under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)



- In the presence of Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by representatives of State Pollution Control Boards, Urban Local Bodies and Institutes of Repute for 132 identified cities for implementation of city specific action plans under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- **A National Knowledge Network** comprising leading air quality specialists has also been constituted as a technical advisory group to support activities under NCAP.
- **About National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):** It is a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 (with 2017 as base year).

4. NITI Aayog releases report ‘Investment Opportunities in India’s Healthcare Sector’



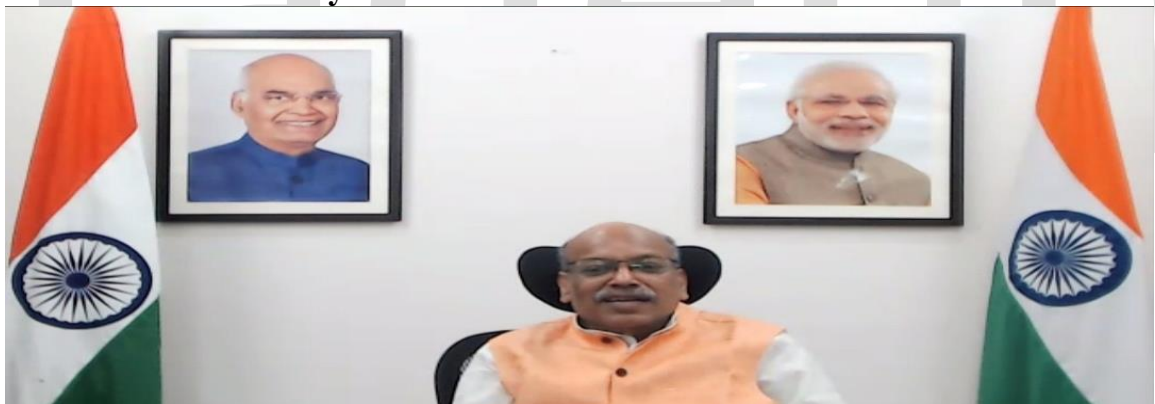
- NITI Aayog released a report outlining the range of investment opportunities in various segments of India's healthcare sector, including hospitals, medical devices and equipment, health insurance, telemedicine, home healthcare and medical value travel.

- The report was released by NITI Aayog Member Dr VK Paul, CEO Amitabh Kant, and

Additional Secretary Dr Rakesh Sarwal.

- India's healthcare industry has been growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate of around 22% since 2016. At this rate, it is expected to reach USD 372 billion in 2022.
- As per estimates by the National Skill Development Corporation, healthcare can generate 27 lakh additional jobs in India between 2017-22.

5. MOS Telecom Shri Sanjay Dhotre represents India at the World Summit on Information Society Forum 2021



- The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2021 represents one of the world's largest annual gathering of the 'ICT for development' community, is co-organized by International Telecommunications Union (ITU), UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD.
- Shri Dhotre underscored the role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for modernization and transformation of the industry, promotion of inclusive economic growth and stimulation of the national economies to meet the larger objectives of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Note:** The 2021 WSIS Forum will provide an opportunity to serve as a platform to track the achievements of WSIS Action Lines in collaboration with the UN Agencies involved and provide information and analyses of the implementation of WSIS Action Lines since 2005.

6. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel and Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurates the 'Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre at Khajuraho



- Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State for Tourism and Culture (Independent Charge) and Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh inaugurated the 'Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre at Khajuraho developed under **Swadesh Darshan Scheme** of Ministry of Tourism in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.
- **The UNESCO world Heritage site Khajuraho** attracts tourists for its mesmerising temples. Adding on more to its features is the convention Centre with brilliant facilities, Named as Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre Khajuraho, this venue will cater to all your business needs.

7. Maithri Aquatech sets up the 'World's First Mobile Water from Air Kiosk and Water Knowledge Centre' in the smart city Visakhapatnam



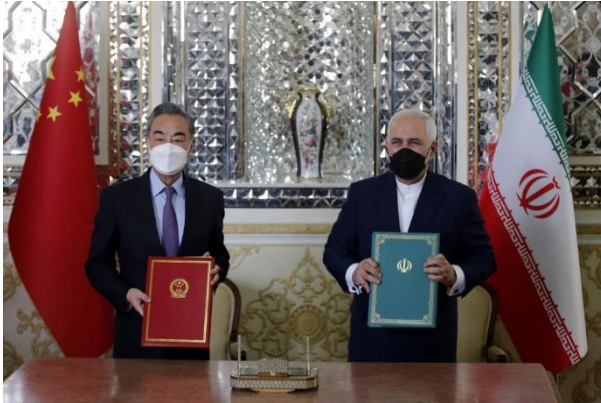
- This initiative is supported by GVMC (Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation) and project SEWAH (Sustainable Enterprises for Water and Health) - an alliance between USAID (United States Agency for International Development) and SWN (Safe Water Network).

- The kiosk will provide clean, mineral-enriched potable water

harvested from the air by making use of Maithri Aquatech's own MEGHDOOT solution as a source to generate water with no dependency on scarce groundwater as well as surface water resources.

- **Maithri Aquatech** is a Hyderabad-based company. The company has developed an innovative solution called **MEGHDOOT** which can generate water by harvesting the moisture in the air.

8. Iran, China sign a 25-Year 'Strategic Cooperation Pact'



- Iran and China signed a 25-year "Strategic Cooperation Pact" in the latest expansion of Beijing's flagship trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative.
- China is Iran's leading trade partner and was one of the biggest buyers of Iranian oil.
- The agreement, signed in Tehran by Iranian Foreign

Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi.

- **Note:** Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said that the pact had first been proposed during a visit to Tehran by Chinese President Xi Jinping in January 2016.

9. World Development Report 2021



- The **World Bank** recently released the **World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives**.

- The latest edition of the World Development Report provides a blueprint on how to harness the power of data for development, to ensure no one is left behind.
- Most countries have shied away from an open-data policy. Only 11 percent low-income countries consistently made available a license

classifiable as 'open'.

- The comparable rate for lower-middle-income countries was 19 per cent, for upper-middle-income countries 22 percent and high-income countries 44 percent.

- **Facts about World Bank:**

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States

Founded: July 1944

President: David Malpass

MD and CFO: Anshula Kant

Membership: 189 countries (IBRD), 173 countries (IDA)

10. SAIL chairperson Soma Mondal is new chairperson of SCOPE



- Soma Mondal, chairperson of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), was elected the new chairperson of the **SCOPE (Standing Conference of Public Enterprises)**.
- Mondal will have a two-year term starting April; she took charge of SAIL chairperson on January 1,

2021.

- **About SCOPE (Standing Conference of Public Enterprises):** It is an apex professional organization representing the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). It promotes excellence in organisations where public investment is involved, in order to enable them to be globally competitive.

11. Marathi writer Dr Sharankumar Limbale to receive Saraswati Samman 2020



- Noted Marathi writer Dr Sharankumar Limbale will receive Saraswati Samman, 2020 for his book **Sanatan**.
- Limbale's Sanatan has been published in 2018. Sanatan is an important social and historical document of dalit struggle.

• **About Saraswati**

Samman: It, instituted by K K Birla Foundation in 1991, is recognised as the most prestigious and highest literary award in the country.

- The award carries fifteen lakh rupees, a citation and a plaque.