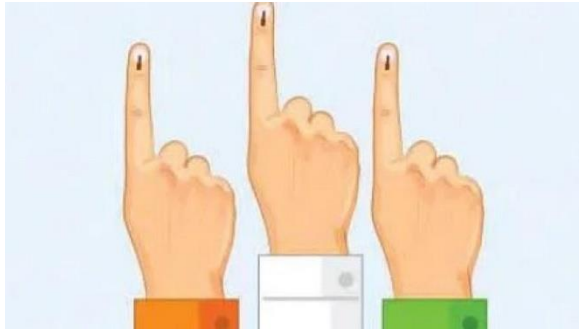


## CURRENT AFFAIRS= 20-10-2020

### DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS (DDCs)

The Centre on October 17 amended the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, to facilitate the setting up of District Development Councils (DDC), the members of which will be directly elected by voters in the Union Territory.



#### About:

The District Development Councils (DDCs) are set to become a new unit of governance in Jammu and Kashmir. A legislation to this effect was brought in by the Ministry of Home Affairs through an amendment to the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989.

- This structure will include a DDC and a District Planning Committee (DPC). The J&K administration has also amended the J&K Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996, to provide for establishment of elected District Development Councils in J&K. This system effectively replaces the District Planning and Development Boards in all districts, and will prepare and approve district plans and capital expenditure. Their key feature, however, is that the DDCs will have elected representatives from each district. The term of the DDC will be five years, and the electoral process will allow for reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women. The Additional District Development Commissioner (or the Additional DC) of the district shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the District Development Council.

### FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES CLOUD INNOVATION CENTRE



In order to address societal challenges through digital innovation, NITI Aayog announced the establishment of a Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Centre, CIC with Amazon Web Services, AWS. It is the first of its kind in India.

#### About:

- This CIC is part of the AWS CIC Global Programme which provides an opportunity for government agencies, non-profits and educational institutions, to come together on pressing challenges, apply design thinking, test new ideas, and access the technology expertise of AWS.
- The NITI Aayog Frontier Technologies CIC will be a great enabler to budding innovators and start-ups and help in piloting state-of-the-art, cloud-centric digital innovations by leveraging emerging technologies such as AI, IOT and robotics, blockchain.

## INDIAN ACADEMY OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS (IAHE)

**5th General Council meeting of Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) was held under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways.**



### About:

Created in 1983, IAHE has been providing training to highway engineers and professionals working in Central Government, State Governments, PSUs, Local Bodies, Contractors, Consultants etc.

- Need was however felt to considerably expand and improve the activities of IAHE to better contribute to highway development programmes.. The council deliberated the recommendations of the Committee to enhance the scope of the IAHE to three distinct functions, namely Training, Applied Research and Development in the Highways and Public Transport Sector, and Road Safety and Regulation and decided to take further necessary action to transform IAHE into a world-class premier institute in highway sector.

## INDIA'S FIRST-EVER MULTI-MODAL LOGISTIC PARK



**Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways will virtually lay the foundation stone for the first-ever multi-modal logistic park in Assam on October 20, 2020.**

### About:

The Rs 694 crore park will provide direct connectivity to air, road, rail and waterways to the people.

- It will be developed under the ambitious Bharatmala Pariyojana of the Government of India.



## MALABAR 2020 NAVAL EXERCISE

As India Seeks to increase cooperation with other countries in the maritime security domain and in the light of increased defence cooperation with Australia, Malabar 2020 will see the participation of the Australian Navy.



### About:

The Malabar series of Naval exercises started in 1992 as a bilateral Indian Navy-US Navy exercise. Japan joined the Naval exercise in 2015.

- This annual exercise has been conducted off the coast of Guam in the Philippine Sea in 2018, off the coast the Japan in 2019 and is expected to be held in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea later this year.
- The participants of Exercise Malabar 2020 are engaging to enhance safety and security in the maritime domain. They collectively support free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and remain committed to a rules based international order.

## SCO STARTUP FORUM



The first-ever SCO Startup Forum will be launched on 27th October 2020 ahead of the SCO trade ministers meeting on 28th October.

### About:

The forum will lay the foundation for multilateral cooperation and engagement among the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States to develop and hone their startup ecosystems, collectively.

- The Forum shall identify areas of cooperation by launching multiple entrepreneurial activities like startup showcases through a dedicated virtual platform, mobilizing capital for startups, sharing of best practices, procuring social innovations etc.

Innovation and Startups will be the key focus area of SCO Heads of Government meeting on 30th November 2020 to be hosted by India.



### **Important Info :**

India is currently the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world with over 35,000 startups, close to 25% of which are core technology startups operating in areas of AI, Robotics, Cloud Computing, IoT, Digital Health, Financial & Education Technology.

The 'Startup India' has launched 10 bilateral bridges since its inception and has helped many technology-based startups to expand their businesses to global markets.

### **INDIA'S FIRST SEAPLANE PROJECT**



**The first of the five seaplane services in Gujarat, connecting Sabarmati River in Ahmedabad to the Statue of Unity in Kevadia in Narmada district, will be inaugurated on October 31, the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.**

#### **About:**

The other spots are, Dharoi dam in Mehsana district, to connect Ambaji and Shatrunjay dam in Palitana of Bhavnagar district as well as Tapi in the next phase.

- The first seaplane project of the country is part of a directive of the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- As per the directive, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) requested state governments of Gujarat, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and the administration of Andaman & Nicobar to propose potential locations for setting up water aerodromes to boost the tourism sector.

#### **Important Info :**

A seaplane is a fixed-winged aeroplane designed for taking off and landing on water. It offers the public the speed of an aeroplane with the utility of a boat.

There are two main types of seaplane: flying boats (often called hull seaplanes) and floatplanes.

## JACINDA ARDERN



**New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's Labour Party has won over 49 per cent votes in the general elections. At 26.9 per cent of the votes, the National Party is in second place.**



### **Significance of election results:**

- Ardern's party has won a majority, the biggest victory for the Labour Party in over 50 years. This will also be the first time that a party will be governing alone since New Zealand moved to the MMP (mixed-member proportional representation) electoral system in 1996. With nearly 50 per cent of the vote, the party will get more than the 61 seats required for a parliamentary majority.

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