

Current Affairs: 15/16.12.2021

PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SEMICONDUCTORS AND DISPLAY MANUFACTURING ECOSYSTEM IN INDIA

The Union Cabinet approved a ₹76,000 crore scheme to boost semiconductor and display manufacturing in the country, taking the total amount of incentives announced for the electronics sector to ₹2.3 lakh crore.

About:

- The comprehensive programme for the “development of sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystem in the country” is aimed at making India a global hub of electronic system design and manufacturing.
- The scheme would provide fiscal support of up to 50% of the project cost for setting up semiconductor and display fabrication units.
- The Union government will work with the States to set up high-tech clusters with the required infrastructure such as land and semiconductor-grade water.
- In order to drive the long-term strategies for a sustainable semiconductors and display ecosystem, a specialised and independent ‘India Semiconductor Mission’ will be set up.
- It will act as the nodal agency for efficient and smooth implementation of the schemes on semiconductors and display ecosystem.
- The “chips to start-ups” programme would develop 85,000 well-trained engineers.
- Semiconductor designers would be given the opportunity to begin start-ups. The government would bear 50% of the expense under the design-linked incentive scheme.
- The entire programme would lead to 35,000 high-quality direct jobs and indirect employment for 1 lakh persons. The scheme was expected to attract investment of ₹1.67 lakh crore and lead to production worth ₹9.5 lakh crore.

UNESCO'S INTANGIBLE HERITAGE LIST

The 16th Committee of UNESCO for safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in its meeting held in Paris has inscribed DURGA PUJA in KOLKATA on the representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

About:

- This is the 1st festival in Asia to achieve recognition as UNESCO ICH of Humanity.
- UNESCO’s list of intangible culture is an annual list which focuses on those forms of performing art which are of outstanding value but are vulnerable due to lack of support.
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted in 2003. India ratified it in 2007.
- In total, 14 Intangible Cultural Heritage elements from India have now been inscribed on UNESCO’s Representative List.

PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has today approved implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for 2021-26 with an outlay of Rs.93,068 crore.

About:

- The CCEA has approved central support of Rs.37,454 crore to States and Rs.20,434.56 crore of debt servicing for loan availed by Government of India for irrigation development during PMKSY 2016-21.
- Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Har Khet ko Paani (HKKP) and Watershed Development components have been approved for continuation during 2021-26.



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Central funding of 90% of water component for two national projects, namely Renukaji Dam Project (Himachal Pradesh) and Lakhwar Multipurpose Project (Uttarakhand) has been provisioned.

Background:

- Launched in 2015, PMKSY is an umbrella scheme, providing central grants to the State Governments for specific activities detailed below.
- It consists of two major components by Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, namely, Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), and Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP).
- HKKP, in turn, consists of four sub - components, being Command Area Development (CAD), Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI), Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies, and Ground Water Development. In addition, Watershed Development part is being implemented by Department of Land Resources.
- Another component of PMKSY, Per Drop More Crop is being implemented by Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

TREATY ON MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS

The Union Cabinet has approved the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Government of India and Poland.

About:

- The Treaty aims to enhance effectiveness of both the countries in investigation and prosecution of crime, through cooperation and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.
- In the context of transnational crime and its linkages to terrorism, the proposed Treaty will provide a broad legal framework for bilateral cooperation with Poland in investigation and prosecution of crime as well as in tracing, restrain and confiscation of proceeds and instruments of crime as well as the funds meant to finance terrorist acts.
- After signing and ratification of the Treaty, suitable Gazette Notifications will be issued under the relevant provisions of Cr.P.C. 1973 to give effect to the provisions of the Treaty in India.

INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR PROMOTION OF RUPAY DEBIT CARDS AND LOW-VALUE BHIM-UPI TRANSACTIONS (P2M)

The Union Cabinet has approved an incentive scheme to promote RuPayDebit cards and low-value (upto Rs. 2,000) BHIM-UPI transactions (Person-to-Merchant (P2M)] in the country.

About:

- Under the scheme, the acquiring banks will be incentivised by the Government, by way of paying percentage of value of transactions (P2M) done through RuPay Debit cards and low-value BHIM-UPI modes of payments, at an estimated financial outlay of Rs.1,300 crore for a period of one year w.e.f. April 01, 2021.
- This scheme will facilitate acquiring Banks in building robust digital payment ecosystem and promoting RuPay Debit card and BHIM-UPI digital transactions, across all sectors and segments of the population and further deepening of digital payments in the country.
- It will also help in making accessible digital modes of payments to unbanked and marginalized populations, who are outside of the formal banking and financial system.
- **Background:** The scheme has been formulated in compliance with the Budget announcements (FY 2021-22) by the Government to give further boost to digital transactions in the country.

SRI RAMNA KALI MANDIR

On December 17, 2021, President of India Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate a famous Hindu shrine that was destroyed by the Pakistani forces during the war of 1971.

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About:

He will inaugurate the renovated Sri Ramna Kali Mandir, which was completely destroyed by Pakistani forces during heinous Operation Searchlight in 1971. The Ramna Kali Bari used to be a famous landmark of Dhaka where a Kali temple stood for centuries.

- The temple and the temple complex housing many residents were targeted on March 27, 1971, a day after the beginning of the Operation Searchlight of the Pakistan army that targeted the political Opposition and the religious minorities of East Pakistan.
- India supported the renovation and conservation of the historic temple with the help of the Government of Bangladesh. The inauguration comes 50 years after Pakistan was defeated in 1971.

VIHANGAM

An internet-based platform called 'VIHANGAM' integrated with a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) at Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) was inaugurated on 1st September 2021.

The salient features of the said system are as under:

- The system consists of a Ground Control Station (GCS), an RPAS, internet lease line of 40 Mbps and VIHANGAM portal.
- It has been deployed at two opencast mines of MCL namely Bhubaneswari and Lingaraj initially on trial basis.
- The system enables real-time transmission of aerial video of mining activities from mines to internet platform which can be accessed through VIHANGAM portal by authorized personnel only having ID and password.

GREEN HYDROGEN MICROGRID PROJECT

NTPC Limited announced that India's first Green Hydrogen Microgrid Projects will be set up at Simhadri near Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.



About:

The projects will be a precursor to large-scale hydrogen energy storage projects and would be useful for studying and deploying multiple microgrids in various off-grid and strategic locations of the country.

The hydrogen produced during sunshine hours will be stored at high pressure and electrified using a 50 Kilo Watt Solid Oxide Fuel Cell.

The system will work in standalone mode from 5 PM in the evening to

7 AM in the morning. This unique project for India, will open doors for decarbonising the far-off regions of the country like Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

LEENA NAIR

French luxury fashion house Chanel has named Leena Nair, who previously served as Unilever's top HR executive, as its new global CEO. Nair will be joining the company at the end of January and will be based in London.



About:

With this, Nair has joined a growing list of Indian-origin executives who have taken up top roles in some of the world's biggest companies in recent years.

Born in Kolhapur, Maharashtra, Nair studied electronics and

telecommunications engineering at Walchand College in Sangli. She did her

MBA in Human Resources from XLRI, Jamshedpur, in 1992. Nair, 52, started her career as a management trainee at Unilever in 1992. She steadily rose through the ranks to become the "first female, first Asian, youngest ever" Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) at Unilever in 2016.

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SIXTH SCHEDULE

BJP MP from Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal demanded that the region be included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to safeguard land, employment, and cultural identity of the local population.



The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 provides for the formation of autonomous administrative divisions — Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) — that have some legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy within a state. ADCs have up to 30 members with a term of five years, and can make laws, rules and regulations with regard to land, forest, water, agriculture, village councils, health, sanitation, village- and town-level policing, inheritance, marriage and divorce, social customs and mining, etc.

- The Bodoland Territorial Council in Assam is an exception with more than 40 members and the right to make laws on 39 issues. The Sixth Schedule applies to the Northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram (three Councils each), and Tripura (one Council).

Why does Ladakh want to be part of the Sixth Schedule?

- The UT has two Hill councils in Leh and Kargil, but neither is under the Sixth Schedule.
- Their powers are limited to collection of some local taxes such as parking fees and allotment and use of land vested by the Centre.