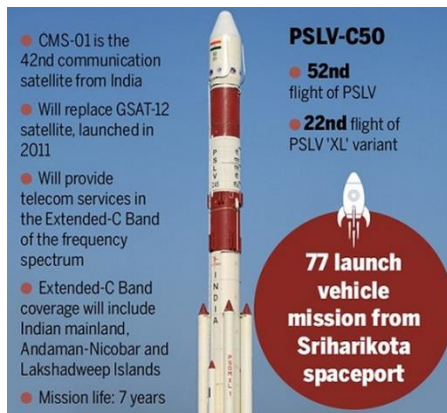


CURRENT AFFAIRS= 18-11-2020

PSLV-C50/CMS-01

India's communication satellite CMS-01 was successfully launched by PSLV-C50 on December 17, 2020 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.



About:

CMS-01 is envisaged to provide services in the extended-C Band of the frequency spectrum that will cover the Indian mainland, the Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands.

It was India's 42nd communication satellite with a mission life of over seven years.

- The satellite will be placed in the specified slot in the geosynchronous orbit. Subsequently, it will function as the continuation of GSAT11 launched 11 years back.”
- PSLV-C50 is the 52nd flight of PSLV and 22nd flight of PSLV in 'XL' configuration (with 6 strap-on motors).

INDIA-BANGLADESH VIRTUAL SUMMIT



Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh held a Summit in virtual format on 17 December 2020.

About:

The two sides jointly inaugurated the Bangabandhu-Bapu Digital Exhibition.

- The two sides jointly inaugurated a railway link between Haldibari in India and Chilahati in Bangladesh during the summit. **Haldibari - Chilahati route** will be beneficial for transit into Bangladesh from Assam and West Bengal.
- Both sides also agreed to hold an early meeting of the Joint Boundary Conference to prepare a new set of strip maps along the stretch of Ichchamati, Kalindi,

Raimongol and the Hariabhanga Rivers.



- Bangladesh requested India to name the historic road from Mujib Nagar to Nodia on Bangladesh-India border as "Shadhinota Shorok" commemorating the historic significance of the road during Bangladesh's Liberation War.
- The following bilateral development partnership projects were also inaugurated:
 - Beautification and city development project in Rajshahi City;
 - Construction of Khalishpur Collegiate Girl's School in Khulna.

Important Info :

List of MoUs/Agreements signed during the Summit:

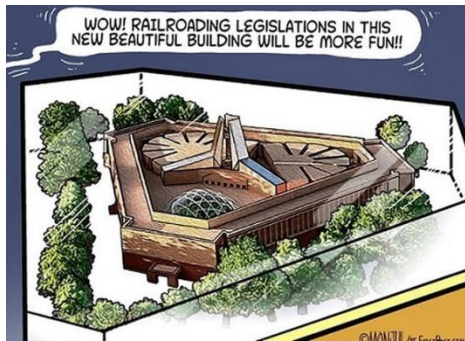
1. Framework of Understanding on Cooperation in the Hydrocarbon Sector
2. MoU regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects through Local Bodies and other Public Sector Institutions
3. Protocol on Transboundary Elephant Conservation
4. MoU for Supply of Equipment & Improvement of Garbage/Solid Waste Disposal Ground at Lamchori Area for Barishal City Corporation
5. MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture
6. MoU between Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum, Dhaka, Bangladesh and the National Museum, New Delhi, India
7. Terms of Reference of India-Bangladesh CEO's Forum

SESSIONS OF PARLIAMENT

The government has said that parties are in favour of doing away with the Winter Session, and that it would be appropriate to have the Budget Session in January.

About:

- The power to convene a session of Parliament rests with the government.
- The decision is taken by the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, which currently comprises nine ministers, including those for Defence, Home, Finance, and Law.



The decision of the Committee is formalised by the President, in whose name MPs are summoned to meet for a session.



The summoning of Parliament is specified in Article 85 of the Constitution. This provision specified that the central legislature had to be

summoned to meet at least once a year, and that not more than 12 months could elapse between two sessions.

- India does not have a fixed parliamentary calendar. By convention, Parliament meets for three sessions in a year.

CURRENCY MANIPULATION

The United States has once again included India in its monitoring list of countries with potentially “questionable foreign exchange policies” and “currency manipulation”.

WHAT IT MEANS...

<p>For India There will be pressure on RBI to cut down intervention, allow the rupee to appreciate</p>	<p>For economy A stronger rupee would partially offset the impact of rising oil prices on imports</p>
<p>In terms of restrictions The tag does not involve any kind of trade restrictions</p>	<p>For RBI The central bank can increase diversification of its reserves to include non-dollar assets</p>



About:
The term ‘currency manipulator’ is a label given by the US government to countries it feels are engaging

in “unfair currency practices” by deliberately devaluing their currency against the dollar.

- The practice would mean that the country in question is artificially lowering the value of its currency to gain an unfair advantage over others. This is because the devaluation would reduce the cost of exports from that country and artificially show a reduction in trade deficits as a result.

Important Info : What are the parameters used?

- An economy meeting two of the three criteria in the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 is placed on the Monitoring List. This includes:
 - A “significant” bilateral trade surplus with the US — one that is at least \$20 billion over a 12-month period.

- A material current account surplus equivalent to at least 2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) over a 12-month period.
- “Persistent”, one-sided intervention — when net purchases of foreign currency totalling at least 2 percent of the country’s GDP over a 12 month period are conducted repeatedly, in at least six out of 12 months.
- Once on the Monitoring List, an economy will remain there for at least two consecutive reports “to help ensure that any improvement in performance versus the criteria is durable and is not due to temporary factors.

USTAD IQBAL AHMED KHAN

Music maestro Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan passed away at the age of 66.



About:

Born in 1954, Iqbal Ahmed Khan was raised in the Dilli Gharana of music.

He began his stage career under the guidance of his teacher and grandfather Ustad Chand Khan.

- Keeping up with the family traditions, Khan had actively promoted Amir Khusro’s musical works.
- He also founded Dilli Durbar, “aimed solely towards the renaissance of Indian Classical Music”, which held its first classical event in 2019.

Important Info :

Awards and Honours:

- He was bestowed the title of “Gaayan Acharya” by Sangeet Saiwalaya Bodhgaya (Bihar) in 1993, and “Sangeet Rattan” by Sur Sangeet Samity, Narela, Delhi, and “Sangeet Saurabh” by Sangeetaayan, Delhi in 1998.
- The legendary musician was also a recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Hindustani Music.

GPS-BASED TOLL COLLECTION SYSTEM

Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways has said that the Government has finalised GPS-based(Global Positioning System) technology toll collection to ensure seamless movement of vehicles across the country.



About:

