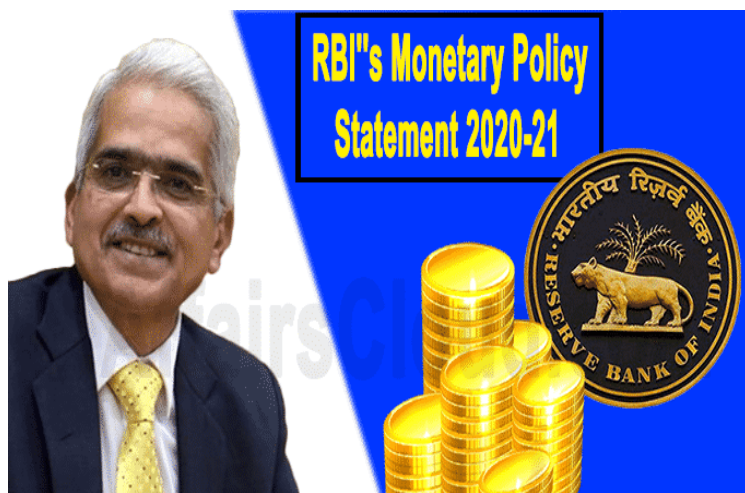


Current Affairs=22-05-2020



Overview of Monetary Policy Statement 2020-21 released by RBI



On May 22, 2020, The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released its **Monetary Policy Statement 2020-21** in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The three-day (May 20 to 22, 2020) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) virtual meeting by the 6 members

was headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

Highlights of the meet:

- All members of the MPC unanimously voted to reduce the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) to 4.0 % from 4.40%.
- RBI extends moratorium on loans for another 3 months till August 2020
- India's 2020-21 GDP growth rate expected to be negative
- Reserve Bank infuses Rs 15,000-crore line of credit to EXIM Bank
- RBI increases export credit period to 15 months from 12 months
- Reserve bank grants Rs 15,000-crore refinance facility for SIDBI
- RBI eases CSF withdrawal rules ; arranges additional Rs 13,300 crore for states
- Industrial production decrease by 17 % in March with manufacturing activity down by 21 % : RBI

Following table showing the policy rate changed in the meeting:

Policy rate	New Rate	Previous Rate	Change in Basis points (bps)
Policy Repo Rate	4.0%	4.40 %	40

Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%	3.75%	40
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	4.25%	4.65%	40
Bank Rate	4.25%	4.65%	40
Cash reserve Ratio (CRR)	3%	3%	No change
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.00%	18.25%	25

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Formation– 1 April 1935

Deputy Governors– 4 (Bibhu Prasad Kanungo, Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra, one is yet to be appointed)

International Day for Biological Diversity 2020: May 22



International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) is celebrated every year May 22 globally. The day was declared by the United Nations (UN) to raise awareness and increase understanding of biodiversity issues. Biological Diversity is not limited to nature

alone, but also plants, animals, microorganisms and different ecosystems.

Theme for the year 2020: Our solutions are in nature.

ONGC, NTPC signs MoU to start joint venture for renewable energy business

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (**ONGC**) and NTPC have signed a preliminary agreement to set up a joint venture for a renewable energy project and entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in New Delhi to formalize the agreement. The joint venture will gain significant growth in the renewable power sector



ONGC has a renewable portfolio of 176 MW which is 153 MW of wind power and 23 MW of solar power and its aim to add 10GW of renewable power by 2040 and NTPC has a renewable power capacity of 920 MW installed

in its existing 2300 MW of Projects under construction and trying to reach a 32 GW in 2032. This joint venture of ONGC and NTPC will show a significant growth in the renewable power sector by expanding footprints in the offshore and overseas Renewable energy projects.

About ONGC:

Chairman & Managing Director – Sashi Shanker

Headquarters – New Delhi

About NTPC:

Chairman & Managing Director – Gurdeep Singh

Established in – 1975

World Bank announces \$160 billion assistance to 100 countries



On May 20, 2020, The **World Bank** announced emergency operations worth **USD** (United States Dollar) **160 billion** to 100 developing countries over a 15-month period to fight the deadly Coronavirus. The coronavirus pandemic and shutdown is

expected to put over 60 million into extreme poverty globally.

Since March 2020, the Bank Group has rapidly delivered record levels of support in order to help countries protect the poor and vulnerable, reinforce health systems, maintain the private sector, and bolster economic recovery. _

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) have also fast-tracked support to businesses in developing countries, including trade finance and working capital to maintain private sectors, jobs and livelihoods.

About World Bank:

Headquarters– Washington D.C., United States (US).

Motto– Working for a World Free of Poverty.

President– David Malpass.

Important Cabinet Approvals: 20 May 2020



Following are the various approvals related to national level schemes made during the meeting of Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 20 May 2020.

- **Modification in existing Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS):** approved Sovereign portfolio guarantee of up to 20% of first loss to Public Sector Banks (PSBs) for purchase of Bonds or Commercial Papers (CPs) with a rating of AA and below (including unrated paper with original/ initial maturity of up to one year) issued by NBFCs/ MFCs/Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs).
- **Scheme for Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (FME):** It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Unorganized Sector on All India basis with an outlay of Rs.10,000 crore, to be shared by GOI and the States in ratio of 60:40.
- **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY):** extended for further period of three years up to 31st March, 2023. The assured rate of return will be 7.40 % per annum for the year 2020-21 per annum and thereafter to be reset every year.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) :** Scheme to bring Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector in India. Total investment – Rs. 20,050 crore, to be implemented during a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25.

- **AtmaNirbhar Bharat Package:** Allocation of foodgrains from Central Pool to approximately 8 crore migrants / stranded migrants @ 5 kg per person per month (May and June, 2020) for two months free of cost.
- **Special Liquidity Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)** to improve liquidity position of the NBFCs/HFCs.
- **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme:** Total corpus of Rs. 41,600 crore. It will enable additional funding of up to Rs. three lakh crore to eligible MSMEs and interested MUDRA borrowers. 100% guarantee coverage to be provided by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC).
- **Issuance of the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Second Order, 2020** in relation of Jammu & Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralisation and Recruitment) Act

1 crore treatments provided under AB-PMJAY, created webinar, launched Ask Ayushman & Hospital Ranking Dashboard: Harsh Vardhan



i. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare (HFW), **Harsh Vardhan** to mark **1 crore** treatments (milestone) of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) since September 2018 has inaugurated the 1st edition of Arogya Dhara, a series of **webinars** titled “Ayushman Bharat: 1 crore treatments and beyond” ii. Launched ‘**Ask Ayushman**’ a chatbot on Whatsapp & “**Hospital Ranking Dashboard**”. Minister of State (HFW), Ashwini Kumar Choubey was present during the webinar.

1. Apart from this, he released a “**Special edition** of the AB-PMJAY beneficiary electronic (e)-card” exhibiting the milestone of 1 crore hospital admissions

2.Launched “**Hindi version** of the AB-PMJAY website” to enable effective connection with the masses and to empower them with access to right information through a user-friendly medium.

Rajnath Singh participates in MSMEs E-conclave “SIDM MSME Conclave 2020”



i.Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** participates in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises(MSMEs) E-conclave, “Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (**SIDM**) **MSME Conclave 2020**“, jointly organised by SIDM, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Department of

Defence Production.

ii.The Theme of the E-conclave is ‘Business Continuity for MSMEs in Defence & Aerospace Sector’ in which more than 800 Defence MSMEs participated.

iii.Advised MSMEs to make India(swadeshi) ‘Aatma Nirbhar’ in defence technology and products & called to make ‘Local’ Focal in daily lives to achieve self-reliance.

World Bank names American Economist Carmen Reinhart as its Chief Economist



American economist and Harvard University Professor, **Carmen M. Reinhart**, has been named as the new **Vice President and Chief Economist of the World Bank** on 20 May 2020.

Her appointment will be effective from June 15, 2020.

She replaces Pinelopi Goldberg,

who left on March 1 after only 15 months on the job.Reinhart also currently serves on advisory boards of the IMF and the New York Federal Reserve.

Khadi Masks to export in Foreign Markets

In this regard, KVIC has already developed double layered cotton masks and triple-layered silk face masks. If this came to effect then it will be a perfect example of “local the global”, a call in wake of AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan . The export of Khadi masks required an increase in production which ultimately create large scale employment opportunity for artisans in India.



- i. Ministry of Commerce and Industries lifted the ban on export of non-medical/ non-surgical masks of all types.
- ii. KVIC has already developed double layered cotton masks and triple-layered silk face masks.
- iii. Cotton acts as a

mechanical barrier while silk is an electrostatic barrier.